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BENGALURU
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Klaasen, bowlers help South Africa take 2-0 lead in T20I series
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NEARBY

Buses with facility to lift wheelchairs in city soon

BENGALURU

To make commuting easier for the differently abled, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation has, for the first time, introduced buses that have wheelchair-lifting facility, which will be operated by the bus crew.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Battle for 4 Legislative Council seats today

BENGALURU

Election to the keenly contested four graduates and teachers constituencies in the Legislative Council will get under way and the fate of a couple of big leaders will be sealed in the ballot papers on Monday.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

President to arrive in Bengaluru today

BENGALURU

President Ram Nath Kovind is arriving in Bengaluru on a two-day visit on Monday. He will be inaugurating the platinum jubilee celebrations of Rashtriya Military School, Bengaluru, on Monday. It is also a momentous occasion for the school as it is inducting its first batch of the girl cadets as boarders from the current academic year.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGE 2

Adani power project sparks row in Sri Lanka

Official says Modi 'pressured' Gotabaya, later recalls charge

MEERA SRINIVASAN
JAFFNA

An Adani project in Sri Lanka is yet again at the centre of a controversy, after a top official of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) told a parliamentary panel that a renewable energy project in the island's northern Mannar district was given to the Adani Group after Prime Minister Narendra Modi "pressured" President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

CEB Chairman M.M.C. Ferdinando made the remark on Friday before the Committee on Public Enterprises (COPE), but soon withdrew it, saying he had been "emotional".

In the dark: A man using his mobile phone torch during a power cut in Colombo in Sri Lanka. The island-nation has been in the throes of an acute power shortage. • AP

President's denial

Between his statement on Friday and swift withdrawal was a tweet from Mr. Gotabaya on Saturday that said: "Re[garding] a statement made by the #lka CEB Chairman at a COPE committee hearing regarding the award of a Wind Power Project in Mannar, I categorically deny authorisation to award this project to any specific person or entity. I trust responsible communication in this regard will follow."

The President's office followed up with a statement "vehemently denying" the CEB official's remarks. "Sri Lanka is currently in an acute shortage of power and President desires to expedite implementation of mega power projects. However, no undue influence will be used in awarding such projects. Project proposals for large-scale renewable energy projects is limited, but special attention will be paid to the selection of institutions for the projects, which will be carried out strictly in accordance with the transparent system by the government of Sri Lanka."

The development comes days after Sri Lanka amended its electricity law, effectively eliminating competitive bidding. The move drew flak from critics. In the parliamentary debate on the Bill, subsequently passed, Opposition lawmaker Nalin Bandara flagged concerns that competitive bidding was being done away with "to make way" for projects such as the Adani Group's, according to the Colombo-based *Sunday Times*.

This is not the first time that Sri Lankans have questioned the Adani Group's entry into the island's energy sector, or brought up Mr. Modi's name in this regard. Following an agreement between the Group and the CEB, to execute renewable energy projects in the northern Mannar and Pooneryn districts, Sri Lanka's main Opposition party, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB), said the Indian businessman was making a "backdoor entry", and accused Mr. Gotabaya of "pampering" Mr. Modi's "notorious friends".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Protests on, more people arrested

Mob attacks train in West Bengal; house of activist razed in Uttar Pradesh

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The protests against the controversial remarks on Prophet Muhammed by two now-sacked BJP spokespersons continued in several States on Sunday even as the authorities at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh razed the "illegal" house of arrested political activist Javed Mohammad. Over 400 people – 316 in Uttar Pradesh alone – have been arrested in various States since Friday.

A mob attacked and damaged a local train at the Bethuadahari station in Nadia of West Bengal on Sunday even as prohibitory orders continued in parts of Howrah and Murshidabad districts.

Brought down: A bulldozer being used to demolish the bungalow of an activist in Prayagraj on Sunday. • PTI

In West Bengal's Bethuadahari, a police officer said, over 1,000 demonstrators threw stones, damaged houses and tried to put up blockades on roads. When chased by the police, a section of them went inside the Bethuadahari railway station and attacked the train.

Another group of people vandalised the Dhubulia railway station in Nadia. Some employees of the station and passengers of the Krishnagar-Lalgola local train were injured, an official of the Eastern Railway said.

In Purba Medinipur district, the police prevented Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, from visiting violence-hit areas of Howrah, where several BJP offices were targeted, "as a precautionary measure".

In Uttar Pradesh, the Prayagraj administration on Sunday demolished the house of Mr. Mohammad, who was arrested on charges of fuelling violence during a protest in the city on Friday after *namaz*. The administration said the bungalow was an "illegal construction."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

'Special task force will clear encroachments on drains'

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A special task force will be constituted to clear all storm-water drains in the city of encroachments to ensure free flow of water and prevent flooding, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said on Sunday.

"There are two kinds of encroachments: small huts by the poor that we will relocate, and encroachments by big builders that will be ruthlessly demolished. During the previous government, the rich encroachers were let go, but under our government we will not let that happen," he said.

The Chief Minister also said key "black spots" causing floods have already been surveyed and identified, and will be cleared soon. The civic body had identified 2,626 buildings as encroaching SWDs in 2016, of which 1,480 have been cleared till now, and 714 are still remaining.

Modern Times: watches keep an eye on workers

GPS tracking a privacy invasion: experts

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

Tied not only to their hands but also to their daily wages, GPS-enabled watches have kept *safai karamcharis* (sanitation workers) in Chandigarh under constant anxiety ever since the gadgets were introduced by the Municipal Corporation in 2020. With no laws or regulations yet to be formalised to check misuse of such monitoring devices, many legal experts feel that this "constant and dehumanising" surveillance must be stopped immediately.

The Corporation introduced the watches to glean attendance of these workers and check the misuse of the manual attendance system.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Legacy waste

<20 The percentage by which the legacy waste at the three landfill sites — Ghazipur, Okhla and Bhalswa — in Delhi has been processed since the project to flatten the mountains of garbage started in October 2019, while the deadline is just two and a half years away. According to data gathered from the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, a total of 21 lakh tonnes of legacy waste is being bio-mined at the three landfill sites per year (since October 2019). The Ghazipur landfill site has seen the slowest progress. PTI

Rising power demand

45 In thousand megawatt (MW), by which India's power demand jumped this year as an intense heat wave sweeps through northern parts of the country and the economy expands, according to Power Minister R.K. Singh. India's electricity demand on June 9 was recorded at an all-time high of 2,10,792 MW, as 4,712 million units of electricity were consumed. Power plants are operating at full throttle to meet this demand, and the government has ordered coal import to meet the shortfall in domestic supplies. PTI

Rebels surrender

295 The number of active Maoist militia members who surrendered before the Odisha Police in Swabhiman Anchal, Malkangiri. Swabhiman Anchal was seen earlier as a 'cut-off' area and a Maoist hotbed. Rebels from Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh used to take shelter in the region after committing crimes in the neighbouring States. The region was considered a safe haven for Maoists as it is surrounded on three sides by the Balimela reservoir. A dense forest on one side connects it to Andhra Pradesh. PTI

Sinking low

3.32 lakh, the value at which Iran's currency reached on Sunday — its lowest value ever — as talks to revive the country's tattered nuclear deal remained deadlocked. The rial's new low came as U.S. sanctions against the country are still in force. Iran's economy is struggling because of the U.S. pullout from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers that restored sanctions on Iran's oil and banking sectors. Talks in Vienna to renew the agreement have been deadlocked for months. AP

Eroding values

2.29 In ₹ lakh crore, the value by which the market capitalisation (m-cap) of the top-10 most valued companies eroded last week, with Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) taking the biggest hit. The Sensex tumbled 1,465.79 points or 2.63%, while Nifty lost 382.50 points or 2.31% as investors rushed to safer assets because elevated crude oil prices triggered inflation fears. Corporate major Reliance Industries' m-cap fell by ₹44,311.19 crore to ₹18,36,039.28 crore. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Understanding the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

Why was the OIC established? What has been its role in the international arena?

THE GIST

- The OIC was established at a 1969 summit in Rabat (Morocco). It endeavours to establish solidarity among member states, support restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of any member state under occupation; protect, defend and combat defamation of Islam, prevent growing dissention in Muslim societies and work to ensure that member states take a united stand on the international stage.
- India's association with the 57-nation grouping has not been easy. Even though the country has good relations with the UAE and Saudi Arabia, its membership and engagement has been constantly challenged by Pakistan.
- Al Sharq Forum analyst Abdullah al-Ahsan, in an article in 2019 noted that the OIC has failed to establish a cooperative venture among its members, who were either capital-rich and labour-scarce or manpower-rich and capital scarce countries.

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

The story so far: On June 5, the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) "condemned and denounced" the comments on Prophet Muhammed made by two erstwhile national spokespersons of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Referring to it as part of "growing spate of hatred and defamation of Islam in India", it sought that the perpetrators are bought to justice and held accountable. In response, Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson at the Ministry of External Affairs, stated that India rejected the OIC Secretariat's "unwarranted" and "narrow-minded" comments. He said that the views expressed by the two individuals did not reflect the views of the Indian government and that relevant authorities had already initiated strong actions against them.

What is the OIC?

The OIC claims to be the "collective voice of the Muslim world". It was established at a 1969 summit in Rabat (Morocco) after what it describes as the 'criminal arson' of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the disputed city of Jerusalem. The OIC endeavours to establish solidarity among member states, support restoration of complete sovereignty and territorial integrity of any member state under occupation; protect, defend and combat defamation of Islam, prevent growing dissention in Muslim societies and work to ensure that member states take a united stand at the UN General Assembly, Human Rights Council and other international fora.

The OIC has consultative and cooperative relations with the UN and other inter-governmental organisations to protect the interest of Muslims, and settle conflicts and disputes involving member states, among them being the territorial conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and the status of Jammu & Kashmir. Presently based in Jeddah, the organisation plans to permanently move its headquarters to East Jerusalem once the disputed city is 'liberated'. Moreover, it aspires to hold Israel accountable for 'war crimes' and violations of international law.

The organisation adheres to a charter that lays out its objectives, principles and operating mechanism. First adopted in 1972, the charter has been revised multiple times in line with emerging conditions in the developing world. The present charter was adopted in March 2008 at Dakar in Senegal. It enshrines that all members be guided and inspired by the noble Islamic teachings and values alongside committing themselves to the purposes and principles of the UN charter. Member states are expected to uphold and promote good governance, democracy, human rights, fundamental freedom and the rule of law – settling disputes through peaceful means and refraining from the use of threat or force.

In addition, the OIC carves out a 10-year Programme of Action (PoA). Last instituted for the decade ending 2025, the PoA calls for measures to combat all aspects of terrorism globally. It also talks of implementing social schemes to eliminate two-thirds of extreme poverty and spurring industrialisation, investment, trade and overall economic and social growth among member states.

How does the OIC function?

The Islamic Summit, composed of Kings and heads of state, is the supreme authority of the organisation. Convening every two years, it deliberates, takes policy decisions, provides guidance on issues relevant to the organisation and considers issues of concern to the member states. The Council of Foreign Ministers is the chief decision-making body and meets annually to decide on how to implement the OIC's general policies. In addition, this council also appoints, for a period of five years, the Secretary General, who is the chief administrative officer of the grouping. The Secretary General follows up on implementation of the decisions, directs attention to competent organs' specific issues of concern, creates a channel for coordination among the varied organs and submits annual reports on the work undertaken. Former Foreign Affairs Minister of Chad, Hissein Brahim Taha, is the current Secretary General, taking up the role in November 2021.

UN members with a Muslim majority can join the organisation. The membership is to be ratified with full consensus at the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers. The same provisions apply for acquiring an observer status. All decision-making in the forum requires a quorum defined by the presence of two-thirds of the member states and complete consensus. In case a consensus cannot be reached, decisions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

The OIC is financed by the member states proportionate to their national incomes. Should a member fail to meet their obligations such that the amount of arrears equals or exceeds the amount of contributions due from it for the preceding two years, their voting rights are suspended. The member is only allowed to vote if the Council of Foreign Ministers is satisfied that the failure is due to conditions beyond the member's control. The OIC also has standing committees for cooperation on information and cultural affairs, economic and commercial matters, scientific and technological initiatives and for Jerusalem.

What has been the nature of India's relationship with the OIC?

India's association with the 57-nation grouping has not been easy. Even though the country has good relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, its membership and engagement has been constantly challenged by Pakistan. In 1969, Islamabad's opposition to Indian participation at the first OIC Plenary resulted in the Indian delegation being turned back from the venue at the last minute.

About 50 years later, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addressed the OIC Plenary of Foreign Ministers in Abu Dhabi as a guest of honour. The invitation was extended by the UAE's Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. In 2018, Bangladesh had proposed India be given the observer status at the OIC considering its sizeable Muslim population - a move which received support from Turkey but was opposed by Pakistan. Political analyst Ketan Mehta of the Observer Research Foundation wrote in 2019 that Islamabad's apprehension stems from the fear that India's involvement in the grouping could influence the opinion of other Muslim states – not boding well for its influence.

What have been the criticisms against the OIC grouping?

Brookings Institution analyst Turan Kayaoglu wrote in 2020 that the OIC had become a premise for 'window dressing', more interested in the rights of Muslim minorities in places such as Palestine or Myanmar than the human rights violations of its member states. The author noted that the body lacks power and resources to investigate human rights violations or enforce its decisions through signed treaties and declarations.

Experts have also pointed to the fact that the organisation is largely restricted to arbitrating in conflicts where both parties are Muslims. This is because the organisation is centred around Quranic values, which, it believes, makes it a qualified arbitrator. The according of observer status at the UN to the Palestine Liberation Organisation is considered among its major successes.

Al Sharq Forum analyst Abdullah al-Ahsan, in an article in 2019 – the 50th anniversary of the organisation– noted that the OIC has failed to establish a cooperative venture among its members, who were either capital-rich and labour-scarce countries or manpower-rich and capital scarce. "...the organization has not evolved to become a significant player either in international politics or in the area of economic cooperation," Mr. Al-Ahsan wrote.

Former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addresses as 'Guest of Honour' at the 46th Foreign Ministers' meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Abu Dhabi in 2019. • PTI

EXPLAINER

The FATF and Pakistan's position on its 'grey list'

How is Pakistan aiming to get itself removed from the Financial Action Task Force's grey list?

THE GIST

- Ahead of the plenary session of the Financial Action Task Force from June 14 to 17, Pakistan is hoping to get its name removed from the FATF's 'grey list'.
- The grey countries are designated as "jurisdictions under increased monitoring", working with the FATF to counter criminal financial activities. Black list countries are 'high-risk jurisdictions subject to call for action'. These nations have huge deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing regimens.
- Pakistan was retained on the grey list in March as it was yet to address concerns on the front of terror financing investigations and prosecutions targeting senior leaders and commanders of UN designated terrorist groups.

DIKSHA MUNJAL

The story so far: Ahead of the plenary session of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global financial crime watchdog, from June 14 to 17 in Berlin, Pakistan which continues to face an economic crunch, is hoping for some respite in the form of its removal from the FATF's 'grey list' or the list of countries presenting a risk to the global financial system.

In its last plenary meeting in March, the FATF had retained Pakistan's listing, asking it to expeditiously address the remaining deficiencies in its financial system.

What is the FATF?

The Financial Action Task Force is an international watchdog for financial crimes such as money laundering and terror financing. It was established at the G7 Summit of 1989 in Paris to address loopholes in the global financial system after member countries raised concerns about growing money laundering activities. In the aftermath of the 9/11 terror attack on the U.S., FATF also added terror financing as a main focus area. This was later broadened to include restricting the funding of weapons of mass destruction.

The FATF currently has 39 members.

• REUTERS

The decision-making body of the FATF, known as its plenary, meets thrice a year. Its meetings are attended by 206 countries of the global network, including members, and observer organisations, such as the World Bank, some offices of the United Nations, and regional development banks.

The FATF sets standards or recommendations for countries to achieve in order to plug the holes in their financial systems and make them less vulnerable to illegal financial activities. It conducts regular peer-reviewed evaluations called Mutual Evaluations (ME) of countries to check their performance on standards prescribed by it. The reviews are carried out by FATF and FATF-Style Regional Bodies (FSRBs), which then release Mutual Evaluation Reports (MERs). For the countries that don't perform well on certain standards, time-bound action plans are drawn up. Recommendations for countries range from assessing risks of crimes to setting up legislative, investigative and judicial mechanisms to pursue cases of money laundering and terror funding.

What are FATF's 'grey' and 'black' lists?

While the words 'grey' and 'black' list do not exist in the official FATF lexicon, they designate countries that need to work on complying with FATF directives and those who are non-compliant, respectively.

At the end of every plenary meeting, FATF comes out with two lists of countries. The grey countries are designated as "jurisdictions under increased monitoring", working with the FATF to counter criminal financial activities. For such countries, the watchdog does not tell other members to carry out due-diligence measures vis-a-vis the listed country but does tell them to consider the risks such countries possess. Currently, 23 countries including Pakistan are on the grey list.

As for the black list, it means countries designated as 'high-risk jurisdictions subject to call for action'. In this case, the countries have considerable deficiencies in their AML/CFT (anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing) regimens and the body calls on members and non-members to apply enhanced due diligence. In the most serious cases, members are told to apply counter-measures such as sanctions on the listed countries. Currently, North Korea and Iran are on the black list.

Being listed under the FATF's lists makes it hard for countries to get aid from organisations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the European Union. It may also affect capital inflows, foreign direct investments, and portfolio flows.

Why is Pakistan on the grey list?

Pakistan was retained on the grey list in March as it was yet to address concerns on the front of terror financing investigations and prosecutions targeting senior leaders and commanders of UN designated terrorist groups. Diplomatic sources in Pakistan told *The Hindu* that steps had been taken in this direction such as the sentencing of terror outfit chief Hafiz Saeed, prosecution of Masood Azhar, arrest of about 300 other designated terrorists, and the seizure of more than 1,100 properties owned by terror groups. India meanwhile, a member of FATF, suspects the efficacy and permanence of Pakistani actions.

Pakistan is currently banking on its potential exclusion from the grey list to help improve the status of tough negotiations with the International Monetary Fund to get bailout money.

Pakistan has found itself on the grey list frequently since 2008, for weaknesses in fighting terror financing and money laundering. In 2009, the country began to cooperate with the FATF-like regional body, Asia Pacific Group (APG), for a ME process.

On completion of the ME in June 2010, Pakistan made a "high-level political commitment" to the FATF and APG to address its strategic AML/CFT deficiencies. It was given an action plan which required demonstrating adequate criminalisation of money laundering and terrorist financing as well as showing adequate measures to identify, freeze and confiscate terrorist assets.

It was taken off the list in 2015 owing to its progress but was put back on it in 2018. It was given a 27-point action plan to restrict terror financing activities. After warnings and two deadline extensions on the first plan, Pakistan was prescribed another seven-point action plan by the APG in 2021, focused specifically on combating money laundering. In March, Pakistan informed FATF that it had completed 32 of the total 34 action items in the two plans but was retained on the list. The FATF gave it time till January 2023 to complete the 2021 plan.

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Why teaching literature should be a part of the English classroom

Of language and literature

ALBERT P'RAYAN

Recently, an English language teacher asked whether it is necessary to teach the English language through literature. Even before I could respond, she bombarded me with a few more questions: Shouldn't we teach functional English to our students and help our students develop their communication skills? What is the use of teaching literature? Can the study of literature help students develop their language skills?

This debate about whether to use literature in the ELT classroom or to focus only on the communication/functional aspect has been going for about half a century. In this context, it is important to find answers to these questions: What is the purpose of teaching/learning a language? Should learners of English be taught only functional English? What is our understanding of literature? What are the pros and cons of using literature in the language classroom? Do language teachers need to teach only language skills or should they go beyond language teaching?

Communicative competence

The main purpose of teaching any language is to help learners develop their communicative competence, which is the "knowledge of the language structure as well as social knowledge regarding these structures, and the ability to use the language appropriately in a variety of contexts" (Hymes, 1979).

In other words, a person who has communicative competence is not only proficient in the four major language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) but also knows how to speak appropriately and effectively in different contexts.

Language teachers can help learners develop their communicative competence in many ways. Krashen's Comprehensible Input Hypothesis, for example, states that "meaningful and motivating input that is just slightly beyond their current level of linguistic competence but sufficiently comprehensible for the learner to understand" can help learners acquire the language. Krashen also talks about Compelling Input Hypothesis, which states that the input needs to be not just interesting but compelling. This can be in the form of reading materials (novels, stories, plays, anecdotes, etc.), listening material (radio talks, conversations, dialogues, etc.) or videos and films.

In the 21st century, the role of the English language teacher is not limited to helping learners improve their linguistic and communication skills. They are expected to help students develop many other skills including creative and critical thinking while teaching the target language. Therefore, teachers need to use a variety of materials in the English classroom. In this context, textbook writers and teachers should know what sort of "compelling" materials or literary texts can be used to motivate students and enable them to develop not only their linguistic and communication skills but also the 4Cs of communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

Different forms of literature

Literature means different things to different people. Some think that literature is only for dreamers and it does not have any practical value or great significance; others think that literature reflects life and it is a powerful tool to understand various aspects and mysteries of life. Literature is "writing with lasting artistic, cultural, and/or intellectual value". Today, in the age of visual media, visual literacy, defined as the ability to understand and create images, not only writing but speeches and different kinds of visual content such as films and documentaries that have artistic, cultural and/or intellectual value can be treated as literature.

There are many reasons why it is important to expose students to different types of literature. Literature mirrors life and is a reflection of humanity. It teaches them the philosophy of life; helps them understand and appreciate their own culture and that of other people; understand people and enhances their empathy; and have a different world view.

Literary texts such as poems, one-act plays, short stories, popular fiction, and lyrics have the potential to provide rich linguistic input and to enhance learner motivation to read, reflect and discuss.

Literature can also be used effectively to develop 21st century skills. As literary texts are representational and not referential, they help learners use their imagination and develop their creative and critical thinking. By studying characters in plays, short stories and novels, analysing arguments, making inferences and solving problems students can develop their critical thinking skills.

English language teachers (ELTs) should know that literature has the potential to enrich the lives of those who fall in love with it. By using literature in the English classroom, ELTs can help learners not only develop their language skills and communicative competence but also enrich their lives.

The writer is an English Language Teaching (ELT) resource person and education columnist.
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The crypto conundrum

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies may be scarce but it is questionable whether they possess any use value or exchange value

THE GIST

- Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies neither offer direct use value nor possess significant exchange value – bitcoin can buy you very few real goods and services. In short, cryptocurrencies possess no significant fundamental value to sustain their current high prices.
- However many believe that the rising prices of cryptocurrencies reflect their likely future value as a currency. It is possible that investors are bidding up the price of bitcoin because they foresee a future in which private currency is widely accepted as money.
- If cryptocurrencies like bitcoin are going to challenge fiat currencies like the U.S. dollar as a medium of exchange, they would essentially be challenging the authority of the government to print and spend. This is not an assault that governments will tolerate.

PRASHANTH PERUMAL J

Sticking true to its unpredictable nature, cryptocurrencies are registering huge losses in value. From the fall of Terra (Luna), the current bear market is showing a downfall for most cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, Ethereum etc. In this article dated November 1, 2021, Prashanth Perumal talks about the fundamental lack of value offered by cryptocurrencies which make them risky assets as well as volatile investments.

Bitcoin and other private cryptocurrencies have been on a bull run recently. Unlike previous rallies, the current rally in bitcoin has witnessed the increasing participation of retail investors in India. Since 2020, when the Supreme Court overturned an order by the Reserve Bank of India dated April 6, 2018, restricting the use of cryptocurrencies, traffic in domestic cryptocurrency exchanges in India has grown many-fold. Yet, the future of bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies is unlikely to be as bright as many believe it to be.

A case of speculative mania?

The most important feature of cryptocurrencies that is flaunted by their enthusiasts is their limited supply. In a world where central banks create a lot of money out of thin air, it is natural for investors who are looking to protect their wealth to seek abode in alternative assets whose supply cannot be cranked up as easily. Money creation by central banks causes the price of all goods to rise and also tends to accelerate the adoption of alternative assets as currencies. When central banks create a lot of money, it leads to an increase in the prices of not just goods such as food and cars but also that of commodities such as gold and silver, considered to be alternative forms of money. Yet, for various reasons, the rally in bitcoin may be no more than a case of speculative mania.

For one, scarcity alone is not sufficient to facilitate the adoption of cryptocurrencies as money. Any asset must have either use value or exchange value in order for it to possess any fundamental value. This fundamental value, in turn, is reflected in the price of these assets in the long run. Stocks and bonds, for instance, possess exchange value that is based on the expected future cash flow from these assets. Commodities such as oil and steel possess use value because these assets are used to run vehicles and build real estate. Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies may be scarce but it is questionable whether they possess any use value or exchange value. Gold and silver have traditionally served as hedges against inflation because they possess fundamental value derived from their use as jewellery and money. But bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies neither offer direct use value nor possess significant exchange value – bitcoin can buy you very few real goods and services. In short, cryptocurrencies possess no significant fundamental value to sustain their current high prices.

The most important feature of cryptocurrencies that is flaunted by their enthusiasts is their limited supply

Yet, many believe that the rising prices of cryptocurrencies reflect their likely future value as a currency. It is possible that investors are bidding up the price of bitcoin because they foresee a future in which private currency is widely accepted as money. After all, all investments are forward-looking. One may also grant that the extreme volatility seen in the price of cryptocurrencies, which seems unrelated to any similar fluctuations in their fundamentals, may be due to the nascent, illiquid nature of the cryptocurrency market. However, the more cryptocurrencies are accepted in exchange for goods and services, the greater the chances of governments cracking down on them.

Issuance of money

The monopoly that governments (and central banks) possess over the issuance of money is at the root of their power and influence. This allows governments to fund their budget deficits, particularly during times of crises such as the current pandemic when tax revenues have taken an unprecedented hit. It also allows central banks to tinker with the money supply under the mandate of managing aggregate demand in the economy. In essence, monopoly control over money allows governments to indirectly tax citizens by increasing the supply of currencies, thus devaluing them. If cryptocurrencies like bitcoin are going to challenge fiat currencies like the U.S. dollar as a medium of exchange, they would essentially be challenging the authority of the government to print and spend. This is not an assault that governments will tolerate for long. They will allow cryptocurrencies to exist only as long as these currencies remain a speculative asset and not a medium of exchange.

This is not to say that governments are justified in their crackdown against cryptocurrencies. China recently imposed a complete ban on all cryptocurrencies and plans to issue its own central bank-issued digital currency. Private alternatives to fiat currencies offer people greater choice in what currencies they choose to use as a medium of exchange. The benefits of free market competition in money were elaborated by economist Friedrich Hayek in *The Denationalization of Money* . Most notably, competition between currencies to cater to the demands of customers would ensure that fiat currencies that are printed indiscriminately simply go out of use. This is the outcome that governments fear and would fight to avoid at any cost.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Queen Elizabeth marks 70 years on the British throne this year, becoming the first monarch in the nation's history to celebrate a Platinum Jubiliee. How much do you know about her?

1 Queen Elizabeth is not the longest-reigning monarch in history. Which monarch holds this record?

2 In 1993, the Buckingham Palace was opened to the public for the first time. What had happened the previous year, a time which the Queen described once as annus horribilis, which forced her to take this decision?

3 During her reign, the Queen has been served by 14 Prime Ministers. Which Prime Minister did she say she always enjoyed meeting the most?

4 The Queen's greatest regret remains her delayed response to a disaster which killed nearly 150 people, most of whom were children. This episode was recreated in the series *The Crown*. What was this disaster?

5 Lord Curzon said in 1901: "As long as we rule India, we are the greatest power in the world. If we lost it, we shall drop straight-away to a third-rate power." During the Queen's last visit to India, when the British Foreign Secretary made controversial remarks on Kashmir, the Indian Prime Minister reportedly called Britain a "third-rate power". Which Prime Minister was this?

6 This King was the shortest reigning British monarch; he was never crowned. It was because of something that he did that the line of succession moved to his brother. Which King was this?

7 Thanks to a royal tradition, the Queen technically has the right to claim ownership of a particular bird in parts of the River Thames and of these two aquatic mammals in British waters. Which bird and mammals are we talking about?

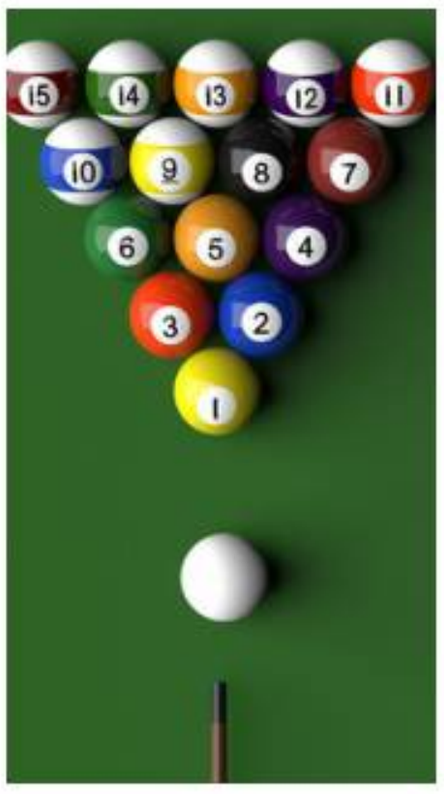
◄ Who are the three men in the picture with the Queen?

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the June 10 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This poet who wrote the National epic poem of Portugal died on 10 June 1580. **Ans: Luis Vaz de Camoes**
2. The Portuguese rule in varied parts of India is said to have started seven years after the arrival of this famous explorer. **Ans: Vasco Da Gama**
3. The Livraria Bertrand in Lisbon is the oldest operating establishment of this product. **Ans: Books**
4. The scientific name of this animal is 'Physalia physalis'. **Ans: Portuguese man o'war.**
5. The 16th century fortification that is used as a metonym for the Portuguese capital. **Ans: Belem Tower or Tower of Saint Vincent.**
6. The 'English' custom which Catherine of Braganza introduced to the British upper classes. **Ans: Drinking tea**
7. If it is Francophone for France and Sinophone for China, the term for Portugal would be this. **Ans: Lusophone**
8. Portugal lays claim to the oldest unbroken international alliance with this nation. **Ans: United Kingdom**
9. The first winner of the European Golden Boot. **Ans: Eusébio**
Visual: This former PM of Portugal. **Ans: António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

Early Birds: Sarbrinder Singh Brar| Rupali Chaudhari| Ushmita Singhania| Mahima Srivastava|

Compiled by: Radhika Santhanam



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Behind the eight ball

I hope you don't take a hiatus from learning English

S. UPENDRAN

What is the meaning and origin of 'behind the eight ball'? (R.V. Nagesh, Hyderabad)

This expression is mostly used in American English in informal contexts. When you say that you are 'behind the eight or 8 ball', you are implying that you are in big trouble; you are in a difficult or a disadvantageous situation, one from which you are unlikely to escape. You feel doomed because you don't see yourself finding a solution to the problem.

Poor Anita. She got COVID a month ago, and now she's behind the eight ball with all her assignments.

If the company continues to spend money the way it's doing now, it'll soon find itself behind the eight ball.

Many of the idioms that we use in everyday contexts come from the world of sports. The same is true of the expression 'behind the eight ball'; it comes from the world of pool or pocket billiards. The balls used to play these games are usually numbered. In one version of the game, a player has to pocket the balls sequentially – in other words, he is supposed to pocket the ball marked one first, and then two, and so on and so forth. The eight ball is to be pocketed last – and till such time, no player is allowed to touch it. If the cue ball touches the eight ball at any time, the player is penalised; and if a player accidentally pockets the eight ball before the other balls have been pocketed, he automatically loses the game. So, when a player finds the cue ball behind the eight ball, he is in serious trouble – he may find it difficult to make a shot without touching it.

How is the word 'hiatus' pronounced? (K. Reema, Bengaluru)

The word consists of three syllables. The first sounds like the word 'hi', while the 'a' in the following syllable is pronounced like the 'ay' in 'pay', 'hay' and 'say'. The 'u' sounds like the 'a' in 'china'. The word is pronounced 'hi-AY-tes' with the stress on the second syllable. It comes from the Latin 'hiatus' meaning 'opening' or 'gap'. Nowadays, the word is mostly used in formal contexts to mean 'a break in an activity' – a break which could be intentional or accidental. A hiatus suggests the complete suspension of an activity – the duration of which can vary from a few days to several years. A five-minute break from an activity cannot be considered a hiatus.

Kunthala returned to coaching after a five-year hiatus.

Padmini said that she was really enjoying her hiatus from teaching.

In terms of grammar, is it okay to say, 'I'll be returning back to Hyderabad on 30 June'? (L. Vasu, Nellore)

The simple answer to the question is yes – there is nothing grammatically wrong with the statement. The problem here is not one of grammar, but of usage. Dictionaries define 'return' as 'to go back or come back'. In other words, 'back' is implied when we use 'return'. It is for this reason that careful users of the language argue that 'back 'is unnecessary in the sentence. It is redundant.

I returned the car to the dealer a month after I'd bought it.

I don't want you to return the money. Keep it.

I think any kind of hiatus one takes in an artistic journey is going to make a huge difference.

-Mel Gibson

upendrankye@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 13	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:46
RISE 17:42	SET 04:25
TUESDAY, JUN. 14	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:46
RISE 18:50	SET 05:23
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 15	
RISE 05:54	SET 18:47
RISE 19:58	SET 06:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
30°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Thunderstorm is likely.

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Buses with wheelchair-lifting facility in city soon

BMTC plans to operate 300 non-AC electric buses with this option

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

To make commuting easier for the differently abled, the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has, for the first time, introduced buses that have wheelchair-lifting facility, which will be operated by the bus crew.

A BMTC bus with the wheelchair-lifting facility at a depot in Bengaluru. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Under the FAME II scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India), the corporation will operate 300 non-AC electric buses with this option. The BMTC has already started receiving the buses and they will be deployed soon.

Director (IT) of BMTC Surya Sen, A.V. said, "We expect to get around 100 buses by August 1. Wheelchair-lifting facility is a prominent feature. The Chief Minister will inaugurate the services, and they will be operated on routes connecting areas such as Majestic and several points on the Outer Ring Road, like Central Silk Board and Hebbal." The corporation has received five e-buses, that are 12 metre long with 40 odd seats in each. Depots like Attibele, Bidadi and Yelahanka have been identified to operate them.

How they work

A BMTC official said, "The corporation has been running low-floor buses, such as Vajra and Vayu Vajra. But, most people in wheelchairs prefer to use private vehicles. In the new buses, by pressing a button, the bus crew can help the passenger to easily board and alight."

The wheelchair-lifting facility is located in the middle of the bus, and once the passenger gets inside the bus, the wheelchair gets placed at the designated spot.

Long-awaited move

Devikala M.L. of the Association of People with Disability, said, "We have been demanding that BMTC should induct buses that are differently abled friendly, and the present move is welcome. Besides, the management should sensitize the bus crew on how they should treat differently abled people. There is also a need to bring holistic changes in the public transport system in the interest of differently abled people, senior citizens, children, and women."

S. Babu, South Regional Coordinator of Disability Law Unit, said, "Differently abled people face hardships daily. At Majestic, for example, there is no easy passage connecting the KSR Railway Station, the bus stand, and the Mero station. Differently abled people cannot easily use the subway. The footpaths, which are in a bad shape, should be made walkable and usable by the wheelchair-bound people."

Press club gets new office-bearers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The new office-bearers of the Press Club of Bengaluru are R. Sridhar (president), Anand P. Bydanamane (VP), B.P. Mallappa (general secretary), Doddabommaiah (secretary), Mahantesh S. Hiremath (joint secretary), Mohan Kumar B.N. (treasurer).

The executive committee members appointed are Rohini V. Adiga, Ganeshz G., Munirame Gowda, Alfred Tennison D., Somashekhar K.S., Yasir Mustaq, and Mini Tejaswi.

Electric buses see over 70% occupancy across city

Of the 90 buses being run by the BMTC, over 80 are enjoying good patronage

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Last December, the BMTC had started running electric buses for the first time under the Bengaluru Smart City project. Of the 90 buses received by the corporation, over 80 are enjoying good patronage.

"There has been good patronage for e-buses. Presently, these buses see an occupancy of 70 to 80%. We are paying ₹51 to the operator per km. On the other hand, we are running diesel buses at close to ₹60 per km. We are only providing conductors from our side. The rest they have to manage, including employing drivers and maintenance," a senior BMTC official said.

Too early to assess

"At this juncture, we cannot make an assessment about loss and profit. These buses are operated for ten years and will benefit the corporation in the long run," the official added.

Though it had received the 90 buses long ago, delay in establishing charging infrastructure forced the corporation to buy more time to be able to utilize all of the available fleet. The buses were initially operated from Kengeri depot and then Yeshwanthpur depot. Recently, it started operating buses from K.R. Puram.

Non-AC electric buses

Praveen Nayak, who regularly uses e-buses said, "I have been enjoying the rides in the electric buses. They are ideal for interior roads. The BMTC should phase out old buses by introducing non-AC electric buses. Electric vehicles will help in reducing pollution levels in the city."

Private bus crashes into house

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Residents of Pipeline Road near Ayyappa temple in Jalahalli were rudely woken up when a private bus crashed into the gate of one of the houses in the wee hours of Sunday.

The private bus that rammed into a house in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The bus is attached to a private company and the driver was taking it from the office to the parking space when the incident occurred.

The driver lost control and crashed into the gate of the house. The impact and sound woke the residents up, and forced them to rush out. Sensing trouble, the driver abandoned the vehicle and escaped. The traffic police said the bus was being driven rashly.

Luckily, no one was injured as the bus was empty and no one was on the street. However, the front portion of the bus, the gate, and the compound wall were damaged. The Peenya traffic police rushed to the spot and seized the bus, and are looking for the driver.

"We suspect that the driver was under the influence of alcohol and this led to the accident. However, efforts are on to track down the driver," a police officer said.

Student held for cheating people online

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The North East cybercrime police on Saturday arrested a paramedical student from Delhi for cheating people online.

Aman Kumar, 20, was arrested based on a complaint filed by Prakash N. on May 20. The accused placed an ad of an iMac for sale online. Prakash came across the ad, spoke to Aman, and transferred ₹75,000 as an advance amount, after which Aman went incommunicado.

A team tracked Aman down and arrested him. He said he was involved in an accident and was asked to compensate the victim. In order to arrange money to pay for this, he had cheated as many as five persons in different States across the country.

Petrol bunk staffer attacked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Petrol bunk staff, with the help of a traffic police official, pinned down a man, who was part of a three-member gang that attacked one of the employees when he was asked to pay for fuel on Thursday.

The Byatarayanapura police identified the accused caught at the spot as Kiran, 21, and based on information he provided, arrested Uday. Efforts are on to track down the third person. The trio had come to the bunk after committing a robbery. They reached Nayara Petrol Bunk, Avalahalli Main Road, Girinagar, around 9.20 p.m., when it was not crowded, and asked the attendant to fill fuel. The victim, Arun Kumar C.S., 28, a staffer, filled the tank and asked them to pay the bill of ₹1,570. The other two asked Kiran to take care of it and sped away.

Kiran pulled out a dagger, hurling abuses at Arun and attacked him on his neck. Arun was severely injured and two of his colleagues, Kumar and Srinivas rushed to his aid. The accused threatened them and tried to escape. However, the staffers, along with the help of a traffic constable on duty nearby, chased and caught Kiran and handed him over to the police. The trio had committed a robbery on the same night before coming to the station.

Arun is said to be out of danger.

THE HINDU
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Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (June 13, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- Why Pakistan seeks removal of its name from the FATF's grey list
  https://bit.ly/fatfpakistan
- Know your English
  https://bit.ly/kye8ball
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.*

Keen battle for four Legislative Council seats today

Among those in fray are ex-Chairman of Upper House Basavaraj Horatti, who is seeking a record victory, and Congress leader Prakash Hukkeri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Election to the keenly contested four graduates and teachers constituencies in the Legislative Council will get under way and the fate of a couple of big leaders will be sealed in the ballot papers on Monday.

Among those in the fray are the former Chairman of the Upper House Basavaraj Horatti, who will be seeking a record victory, and senior Congress leader Prakash Hukkeri.

The elections are being held for Karnataka West Teachers, Karnataka North West Teachers, Karnataka South Graduates and Karnataka North West Graduates constituencies as terms of Mr. Horatti, Arun Shahpur, K.T. Srikante Gowda and Hanumanth Nirani are coming to an end on July 4. Barring Mr. Gowda, the other three are back in the electoral fray as the Janata Dal (Secular) has replaced Mr. Gowda with former president of Karnataka Government Employees' Association H.K. Ramu.

The outcome of the election will provide the ruling BJP, which got majority following the elections to seven seats in Legislative Council from the Assembly recently, further strength in terms of numbers in the 75-member Upper House.

While the ruling BJP is confident of wresting all the four seats and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has also exuded confidence of winning all the seats, the BJP is facing tough battle in South Graduates and Karnataka North West Teachers constituencies. Congress candidate Madhu Made Gowda is challenging the JD(S), which has fielded Mr. Ramu as its candidate in South Graduates while senior Congress leader Prakash Hukkeri is challenging the sitting BJP MLC Mr. Shahpur in Karnataka North West Teachers constituency.

Among the interesting poll outcome will be from Karnataka West Teachers constituency where Mr. Horatti is seeking a record eighth successive victory. Though Mr. Horatti had started his innings as an Independent candidate when he won the seat for the first time in 1980, he later shifted to Janata parivar. He, however, shifted allegiance to BJP and is testing the political waters on the saffron party ticket for the first time. It is being said that he shifted out of JD(S) in a bid to keep the post of Chairman in the council.

In the Karnataka North West Graduates constituency Hanumanth Nirani, brother of senior Lingayat leader and Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani is seeking re-election, and Congress candidate Sunil Sunk, a loyalist of Congress leader Satish Jharkiholi is challenging him.

Election officials leaving for their respective polling stations in Mysuru on Sunday. •M.A. SRIRAM

BJP accuses Congress candidate of malpractice

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The BJP has alleged that the Congress candidate from Karnataka North West Teachers constituency Prakash Hukkeri has attempted to lure voters through money and has sought his suspension from the fray. In a release, BJP General Secretary N. Ravikumar alleged that about ₹17.4 lakh and ballot papers have been seized from a vehicle in Vijayapura while the money was being distributed to the voters. Election material belonging to Congress was also found in the car. "I urge that Mr. Hukkeri should be suspended from the election fray," he said.

Mr. Hukkeri was not available for comment when *The Hindu* tried to contact him.

State to seek national project tag for Upper Krishna

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

Reiterating his government's commitment to expanding irrigation in the State, Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol has said that the State Government has decided to demand national project tag for Upper Krishna.

"The Union Government has already declared Upper Bhadra as a national project. We want the national project tag for Upper Krishna as well. The tag will facilitate flow of funds from the Union Government to the project. It will help the expansion of irrigation in the command area," Mr. Karjol said. He was addressing a media conference here on Sunday.

Cong. will accept caste census report if voted to power: Ex-CM

'There is a need to understand the current situation of the communities'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that if the Congress is voted to power, the Kantharaj Commission report on socio-economic survey or the caste census will be accepted.

He was speaking near here at a convention of Bhovi community. "There is no official data on backward classes and there is a need to understand the current situation of the communities. Though the committee report is ready, the government has not accepted it," said former Chief Minister, who in the past has been criticised for not accepting the commission's report during his tenure though it was ready.

He said: "The last time the caste census was conducted in 1931 and the government spent ₹162 crore on the caste census. The Supreme Court has been repeatedly saying that there is no official data. In the light of this, the census was conducted. Should this report be accepted or not?"

He also said that there is a need to have a discussion on the Constitution to understand what aspirations in the Constitution have been fulfilled so far. "Community convention is necessary to discuss the aspirations of the Constitution and discuss whether the social justice has been fulfilled."

Mr. Siddaramaiah said: "Education, resources and power should be shared equally and that is when change is possible. People should think why they are backward." He also pointed out at various welfare measures taken up by his government for the welfare of SCs and STs. The former Chief Minister also criticised the textbook revision committee under Rohit Chakrathirtha for dropping important historical facts.

President to arrive in Bengaluru today

He will be inaugurating platinum jubilee celebrations of Rashtriya Military School

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

President Ram Nath Kovind is arriving in Bengaluru on a two-day visit on Monday.

He will be inaugurating the platinum jubilee celebrations of Rashtriya Military School, Bengaluru, on Monday.

Rashtriya Military School, Bengaluru, was raised on August 01, 1946, by King George VI as King George Royal Indian Military College. The institution has completed 75 years of journey in the service of the nation and is commemorating its Platinum Jubilee Year.

A three-day event to celebrate the platinum jubilee will be inaugurated by the President at Chanakya Auditorium of Rashtriya Military School.

It is also a momentous occasion for the school as it is inducting its first batch of the girl cadets as boarders from the current academic year.

A spectrum of activities were conducted earlier as a run-up to the platinum jubilee celebrations, including the 10-day cycle expedition organised from April 14 spreading awareness among remote villages about the school in southern States covering a distance of 1,800 km. Governor Thawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will participate in the event along with the President.

Temple inauguration

The President will halt at the Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Monday night. On Tuesday, he will inaugurate the ISKCON Sri Rajadhiraja Govinda Temple on Bengaluru city outskirts.

Report readied by Adi panel?

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The commission headed by the former judge Subhash Adi, which had been set up to look at the option of providing additional reservation to SC/ST communities, is learnt to have finalised its report. According to sources, the commission has reportedly sought an appointment from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for submission of the report.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Why not a 'convent Dalit'?

Former Minister and Congress leader Priyank Kharge *(in picture)*, who has been taking on the government on various

issues ranging from the alleged bitcoin scam to the alleged misappropriation in Ganga Kalyana scheme, was recently described as a "convent Dalit" by Energy and Kannada and Culture Minister Sunil Kumar, implying that he did not understand the "grassroots issues" of the community.

Incensed by this straightjacketing, the former Minister in a recent press conference firstly clarified that he did not fit the description if taken literally. He studied in Poorna Prajna school in Bengaluru administered by Adamaru mutt in Udupi and later joined MES college, neither of them, undoubtedly, run by a convent.

Then he went on to ask what Mr. Kumar's problem was if he was indeed a "convent Dalit". "Should Dalits not learn English? Do BJP leaders love only those Dalits who carry night soil on their heads and stick to their place in caste hierarchy?" he asked. "I am a cosmopolitan Dalit, a conscious Dalit and a Constitution-abiding Dalit who believes in the philosophy of Basaveshwara, Narayana Guru and Babasaheb Ambedkar," he declared, asking if Mr. Kumar had a problem with it.

Calling such attacks the "standard operating procedure" of the BJP's IT cell when confronted with difficult questions, he said he would continue to criticise the government when called for as it was his right to do so. "If it means being branded 'convent Dalit' so be it," he said.

A changed stance

Former Minister and Congress MLA U.T. Khader *(in picture)*, who earlier supported Muslim students demanding a right to wear hijab in classrooms, has changed his stance recently. He asked them to visit countries like Pakistan or Saudi Arabia in order to realise India's beauty and culture.

Mr. Khader, in a video that went viral on social media, advised protesting students not to take the liberty they enjoy in India for granted. "In India you have liberty to talk to anybody, hold press meetings and do anything," he said, reprimanding some students of Mangalore University College, who have been demanding that the administration allow them to attend classes wearing hijab.

In February, Mr. Khader said the girls should be allowed to attend classes wearing the hijab "if they wanted to do so" and that colleges should take a call on allowing saffron scarves for Hindu students. The Congress leader in a latest press conference held last week, who modified his stance, advised the protesting girls to give importance to their education and take the advice of their parents before making any hasty decision. Lakhs of students have been studying in the State. "Why should there be a separate rule for 10 or 15 students?" the Congress MLA asked.

Importance of being Kore

After an emphatic victory in Rajya Sabha elections, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is now keen to ensure the party's victory in elections to four seats of the Legislative Council from Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies. On Saturday, Mr. Bommai visited the residence of Prabhakar Kore, senior BJP leader and former MP, following rumours that he was lying low and was not actively involved in the poll campaign.

The Chief Minister visited Mr. Kore's palatial house inside the green environs of the military cantonment area. They had breakfast and tea and it was over an hour when the duo emerged out along with some close friends and party workers. Local BJP leaders say that Mr. Bommai was reacting to rumours that Mr. Kore was upset about some recent happenings in the party that indicated that the party was neglecting him. Mr. Bommai went to Mr. Kore's house, to convince him to campaign for party candidates, said a BJP leader. As KLE society chairman, Mr. Kore wields significant power. KLE society and its various institutions have significant clout among the voters who include teachers and graduates. There are around 3,000 employees of the society who are eligible voters.

BAGESHREE S.
NAGESH PRABHU
RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI

For the love of animals

Pet lovers attending PetGala - a dog and cat show that aims to create awareness on adoption of pets and on the basic necessities of proper pet care, in Bengaluru on Sunday. •K. MURALI KUMAR

JD(S) stages protest against cross-voting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) on Sunday staged a protest here against the Bharatiya Janata Party and Congress for triggering defection of legislators from JD(S) ranks during the Rajya Sabha elections held on Friday.

Defying party whip, JD (S) legislators S.R. Srinivas of Gubbi voted for BJP while Srinivas Gowda of Kolar voted for Congress, and both are being tipped to contest on BJP and Congress ticket, respectively, in the next Assembly election.

'Betrayal'

JD(S) president C.M. Ibrahim, who led the protest along with other party leaders, said that the act of these two legislators was a betrayal for the party, and exposes designs of the two national parties. "By cross voting, both legislators have ensured the defeat of the JD(S) official candidate." He said that Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar have laid foundation for H.D. Kumaraswamy to become the Chief Minister again.

"Will the Congress take action against two legislators who have given second preference vote to BJP candidate?" he asked.

Blames Cong.

The defeated JD(S) candidate D. Kupendra Reddy said that the biggest opponent of the Congress is the party itself, and that is why it is losing ground across the country. "When I was in Congress and contested from Bommanahalli Assembly constituency, the B-form from Congress was first given to me and later to an Independent," he recalled.

Govt. to stand guarantee for beneficiaries of housing scheme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government will provide bank guarantee to the beneficiaries of housing scheme through a ₹500 crore loan.

"The government has completed construction of 52,000 houses and work order has been issued for another 50,000 houses. Completion of the houses is getting delayed as there is a delay on part of the beneficiaries in paying their share of the cost," he said after laying foundation stone for construction of 1,588 houses to be constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly constituency here on Sunday.

He said: "Beneficiaries would be allowed to pay their part of the cost in instalments." Special emphasis will be given to construct one lakh houses in urban areas, he added.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Syed Shabih** Abbas R/o Prestige Mayberry, Villa 47, Channasandra Main Road, Nagondahalli, Bengaluru have changed my minor daughter's name from Kashish to Kashish Fatima for all purposes.

I, **Narayan Juvekar** S/o. Babu Juvekar, Site No. 35 36, No. 301, NR Pearl Apartment, KLV Layout, Kothanur Village, JP Nagar 8th Phase, Bangalore - 560078, have changed my name to Narayan Babu Juvekar for all purposes.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DAFEDAR** Anzar Ahmed Fazal Ahmed R/at No.202, 'A' Block, Blooms Bury Apartment, 23/4, Benson Town, Bangalore-560046, have changed my name to Anzar Ahmed vide affidavit dated 10/06/2022 before Notary Sivakumara M.N. Bengaluru.

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IN BRIEF

Bishop Franco can take up administrative powers

KOTTAYAM

About five months after a trial court acquitted him of rape charges raised by a nun, decks have been cleared for Franco Mulakkal to take up pastoral responsibilities. A senior priest associated with the Syro Malabar church said Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, apostolic nuncio to India and Nepal, said that the Vatican had accepted the court's decision. It also acknowledged the survivor's right to approach higher courts for justice.

Sangareddy, Siddipet get new District Collectors

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government while transferring half a dozen IAS officers, posted new District Collectors to Sangareddy and Siddipet and made full additional charge arrangement to Nalgonda and Jogulamba-Gadwal districts. A. Sharath, Commissioner of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, has been transferred as the District Collector of Sangareddy. Prashant Jeevan Patil, District Collector of Nalgonda, has been posted as District Collector of Siddipet.

Man killed in explosion caused by chemical

HYDERABAD

A man identified as Bharat was killed in an explosion suspected to have been caused by a chemical at Maharajgunj basti in Afzalgunj police limits on Sunday. The explosion took place when he was cleaning one of the chemical cans which he dumped into a municipal drain causing the explosion. His father too sustained injuries. Samples of the unknown chemical has been sent to a forensic laboratory for further investigation and the police have filed a case.

Anti-Chief Minister protests buffet LDF govt. in Kerala

Pinarayi attends functions under high security, greeted with jeers, black flags

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Confrontational political protests demanding Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's resignation buffeted the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government on Sunday.

The protracted and bitter furore over Mr. Vijayan's alleged misuse of the UAE consulate's diplomatic channel for 'smuggling contraband metal and tranches of foreign currency' during the previous administration spurred the Congress and the BJP workers to attempt to waylay him on his way to attend public functions in Malappuram and Kozhikode.

A cavalcade of police vehicles whisked Mr. Vijayan to the venues cocooned in several layers of VIP security. Along the route, Congress, BJP and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) workers greeted the his motorcade with black flags and jeers.

The police dispersing Muslim Youth League and Youth Congress activists at Mini Pampa on Sunday. • SAKEER HUSSAIN

At Tavanoor in Malappuram, frenzied anti-government demonstrators scaled police barricades. They attempted to overrun the phalanx of law enforcers in anti-riot gear.

Television news channels magnified the protests with real-time coverage. They also broadcast footage of the police stopping vehicles, barricading main thoroughfares, imposing traffic restrictions 'without notice', and forcing families to take detours to their homes.

A few channels showed the police ordering passers-by to remove black masks and supplant them with coloured ones provided by the government.

The 'clampdown' on black prompted Opposition workers to adopt the colour as a symbol of their resistance to the government. They waved black flags as they braved water cannons, toppled iron barricades, and skirmished with the police in North Kerala.

CPI(M)s stance

CPI(M) weighed in with support for Mr. Vijayan. Polit Bureau member Prakash Karat perceived a Congress-BJP axis to target Mr. Vijayan by amplifying non-issues with no consequence.

Satheesan seeks answers from Pinarayi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI/THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan should clarify why the police have not even interrogated a former pressperson who had raised serious allegations against him and the State secretary of the CPI(M), Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan has demanded.

Mr. Satheesan said the government should explain why the Director of the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau had spoken to the former pressperson and sent him as the 'emissary' to the accused in the gold smuggling case.

"Why was the CM afraid of the allegations if his hands were clean," he asked. Mr. Satheesan also criticised him for the 'trouble' the Chief Minister's security cover had given to the people of the State.

Gulbarga University V-C catches students copying, debars them on the spot

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

Gulbarga University Vice-Chancellor Dayanand Agsar on Sunday paid a surprise visit to Government Degree College at Sedam where examinations for the first semester of BA, B.Sc and B.Com are being conducted and found gross violation of norms.

He also caught five students red-handed while they were copying answers and debarred them on the spot.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Agsar said that he also found people who were in no way connected with the institution on invigilation duty. "The principal of the college has been given the responsibility of conducting free and fair examinations. It was his duty to ensure that irregularities are not committed during the examinations. However, I, during my surprise visit to the examination centre, found that people who were in no way connected with the college serving as invigilators in 21 of the 23 examination blocks. Many students were found copying answers. I have debarred five students who were caught red-handed," Mr. Agsar said.

Asked about the action taken against the college authorities, Mr. Agsar said that the university has taken the issue seriously and decided to write to the Commissioner of Collegiate Education, Bengaluru, and Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Kalaburagi, requesting them for further enquiry and disciplinary action against the principal.

Relieved from work

"We, at the university level, have decided to relieve the principal from the responsibility of internal exam supervisor with effect from Monday. The Registrar (Evaluation) will appoint a senior faculty member from the college in that position," Mr. Agsar said.

Mr. Agsar paid a surprise visit to North Karnataka College in Kalaburagi, another examination centre, in the afternoon and found irregularities and violation of exam norms there too.

"No lecturers were found serving as invigilators in the examination halls in North Karnataka College. Moreover, the principal of the college was, with History books in his hands, helping students to copy. I have directed the university Registrar (Evaluation) to cancel the examination centre," Mr. Agsar said. He added that he also debarred three students of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Degree College who were writing papers using phones.

Second scrub typhus death reported in Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A 38-year-old woman on Sunday died at the Government Medical College Hospital here from scrub typhus, the second such death in Kerala in the last three days.

Thiruvananthapuram native Subitha who died this morning was admitted on June 10, according to hospital authorities.

"She was brought here on June 10, but died early this morning. As of now, we do not have any similar cases," a senior hospital source.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy falls at isolated places likely over Assam and Meghalaya; Heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Konkan and Goa; heavy rainfall at isolated places over West Bengal, Sikkim, Telangana and coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	35.0	27.4	Kozhikode	5.0	32.0	25.3
Ahmedabad	–	41.0	29.2	Kurnool	–	37.2	26.4
Aizawl	–	28.2	22.1	Lucknow	–	43.2	30.6
Allahabad	–	45.6	31.0	Madurai	12.0	36.7	25.1
Bengaluru	–	30.0	20.5	Mangaluru	52.0	29.1	22.8
Bhopal	1.0	40.9	24.6	Mumbai	23.0	33.2	24.8
Bhubaneswar	–	32.5	25.7	Mysuru	–	30.6	21.5
Chandigarh	–	42.9	29.0	New Delhi	–	44.4	28.6
Chennai	–	37.4	28.0	Patna	–	38.7	28.0
Coimbatore	–	33.9	23.3	Port Blair	0.4	30.9	26.0
Dehradun	2.0	39.9	23.7	Puducherry	–	34.4	27.0
Gangtok	16.0	27.0	19.5	Pune	1.0	31.8	23.7
Goa	127.0	28.6	23.2	Raipur	2.0	36.4	25.0
Guwahati	51.0	29.0	24.7	Ranchi	–	38.8	26.6
Hubballi	–	27.0	21.0	Shillong	25.0	22.6	16.4
Hyderabad	–	37.3	25.6	Shimla	5.0	33.8	17.6
Imphal	–	31.5	22.7	Srinagar	–	25.4	16.3
Jaipur	–	41.1	30.5	Thiruvananthapuram	1.0	29.8	24.2
Kochi	2.0	30.6	25.0	Tiruchi	–	38.1	26.5
Kohima	3.0	24.8	16.0	Vijayawada	–	41.3	29.8
Kolkata	–	33.0	27.9	Visakhapatnam	–	33.2	27.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	15	44	118	54	53	
Bengaluru	29	15	14	93	96	
Chennai	21	13	47	65	74	
Delhi	31	48	45	208	366	
Hyderabad	6	17	22	33	26	
Kolkata	13	13	20	57	90	
Lucknow	10	21	81	338	338	
Mumbai	10	29	64	15	16	
Pune	124	149	22	53	44	
Visakhapatnam	19	48	22	57	92	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kaithal, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 366 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Scene reconstruction carried out in rape case

Police verified statements of accused

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

Investigators in the Jubilee Hills minor girl rape case on Sunday carried out "scene reconstruction" by taking the six accused – one major and five juveniles – to various locations in Banjara Hills and Jubilee Hills linked to the May 28 assault.

The locations included a pub, where the victim and accused first met, on Road No. 36, the bakery and cake shop on Road No. 14 Banjara Hills and the secluded location on Road No. 44 Jubilee Hills where the assault took place. A sequence of events, and related questions, were posed and verified with the accused in custody and moving from place to place amid tight security.

Gathered information

The investigators corroborated the statements with the preliminary timeline of events, as gathered via CCTV footage and interviews with various persons.

It was learnt that the officers gathered information about the accused switching vehicles, the sixth accused leaving the place reportedly without participating in the penetrative sexual assault, injury marks left on the victim, and plan and choice of the locations.

Post reconstruction of the scenes, the accused were brought back to Jubilee Hills for further questioning.

The juveniles were transported back to the Special Home at Saidabad by 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, the police custody of accused one Saduddin Malik ended on Sunday, and the police are making arrangements to shift him back to the central prison at Chanchalguda.

Etched in memory

Artist's legacy: Mohammed Akhthar Siddiqui, father of the late Danish Siddiqui, photojournalist, inaugurating the International Press Photo Festival in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday by unveiling a picture clicked by his son. The festival is being organised by the Kerala Media Academy. • S.MAHINSHA

Yet another 'custodial death' in Chennai

Probe to be handed over to CB-CID

R. SIVARAMAN
CHENNAI

A history-sheeter died in police custody in Chennai on Sunday, the second such incident in Tamil Nadu's capital in less than two months. A senior police officer said the investigation would be transferred to the Crime Branch-CID. The police, however, claimed there was no 'custodial' excess on their part.

Sources said a special team from the Kodungaiyur police station had picked up S. Rajasekar, alias Appu, 33, a resident of Mundhiri Thoppu near Alamathi in neighbouring Tiruvallur district, for an investigation into a crime that took place in their jurisdiction.

The police said Rajasekar, who faced 27 criminal cases, had a history sheet opened in his name at Sholavaram, and he was a suspect in the Kodungaiyur case. The police said he confessed to his role in the latest crime.

The police said he was kept in a police outpost when he complained of uneasiness and fainted. "Our personnel immediately took him to a nearby private hospital where he was given medicines and administered an injection following which he recovered. He was brought back to the outpost, but again he developed health complications, and was rushed to the Government Stanley Hospital where he was declared 'brought dead'," a police officer said.

City police commissioner Shankar Jiwal ordered a probe.

In April, V. Vignesh, 25, who was detained on the charge of possessing drugs, died at the Secretariat Colony police station after he was allegedly beaten up by the police.

Jana Sena stands for caste-free politics, says Pawan Kalyan

He accuses the YSRCP of promoting rivalries among castes

APPAJI REDDEM
MANGALAGIRI

The Jana Sena Party (JSP) stands for caste-free politics, Special Category Status for the State and a society that is united as Andhra Pradesh and not as castes and subcastes, party president and actor Pawan Kalyan has said.

In an interaction with *The Hindu*, the JSP chief said the ruling YSR Congress Party has failed on all the promises it made to people and is fading away in several districts.

Commenting that the government has promoted 'rivalries among castes through undesirable means', he said the people should stand united to restore the social fabric and the JSP will strive to achieve that goal.

Pawan Kalyan

Speaking about the irreparable damage through the illogical and unjustified bifurcation, he said that political parties have sacrificed people's interests for their selfish gains.

"Eight years on, there are several bifurcation issues pending and unresolved and it is a huge loss to A.P., but the parties have become mute spectators," he said.

It was given to understand that the party is not worried about alliances or the forthcoming polls. It may go solo or either with BJP or TDP or with both.

Stating that his entry into politics was never an accident, he said the trigger was an incident in the combined A.P. where he was obstructed by a political entity when he attempted to do public service by spending his own money some 15 years ago.

'Gentle giant' of Kabini backwaters no more

It is suspected to have died three or four days ago; carcass was found within Gundre range of Bandipur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

The majestic tusker with arguably the longest tusks, rarely found in Asiatic elephants, and a regular sight at the Kabini backwaters is no more.

It is suspected to have died at least three or four days ago and the carcass was found within the Gundre range of the Bandipur Tiger Reserve, abutting the Kabini backwaters, on Saturday.

The iconic elephant was instantly recognisable by the size of its tusks that converged near the tip of its trunks and extended beyond. Known to be of gentle temperament and calm demeanour, it used to silently amble along the shores of the backwaters, munching grass and sipping water.

The elephant was known for its long tusks and used to be frequently sighted at the Kabini backwaters. • R. KRISHNA KUMAR

A lone ranger and rarely seen in an herd, the gentle giant was christened as Bhogeshwara by the local officials and no trip to Kabini backwater was complete without his sighting.

Ramesh Kumar, director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, said the elephant lived its full life in the wild and was speculated to be around 60 years.

Natural death

"Our field staff on their beat stumbled across its carcass. The elephant died a natural death having lived for about 60 years and both its tusks were intact. Besides, there was no sign of any physical injury," said Mr. Kumar.

While one of the tusks measured 2.54 metres the other one was 2.34 metres, said Mr. Kumar. He said there is a widely held belief that this elephant sported the longest tusks in Asia though one could not be sure. But there was no special watch over the elephant given its iconic status and it used to be conspicuous even if it was surrounded by a large herd.

Mr. Kumar said elephants, as they age, suffer wearing out of teeth and consequently the ability to chew. Hence, their intake reduces to a point where they cannot eat properly as a result of which starvation sets in. This was also the case with Bhogeshwara as well, said Mr. Kumar.

The tusks were removed and the carcass was left for the natural decomposition to set in. Besides, scavenging animals and birds of prey feed on the carcass. The earlier practice was to incinerate the carcasses of elephants but it was recently disbanded because it deprived the scavenging animals of their food.

The news of Bhogeshwara's death was received with sorrow by wildlife lovers and his photographs widely shared on social media.

False equivalence

Omnibus prosecution of offensive remarks will make original offence hard to prosecute

The investigation by the Delhi Police against 30 people for remarks allegedly hurting religious sentiments is an unnecessary attempt to create an artificial balance between the specific instance of controversial views being expressed recently on the Prophet and the unrelated opinions expressed online by others in recent times. The BJP has acted against its spokesperson Nupur Sharma and Delhi media unit head Naveen Jindal following global outrage among Muslims over their remarks on Islam. There is little doubt that their remarks came as part of a long-running trend among BJP functionaries and several Hindu organisations to vilify minorities, especially Muslims, and few would question any lawful action against them. The Delhi Police have chosen to register FIRs against Mr. Jindal and Ms. Sharma, but also added 30 other social media users. There may be a justification for the registration of a case against anyone if there appears to be a deliberate attempt to outrage religious feelings or inciting ill-will. However, registering an omnibus FIR that covers priest Yati Narsinghanand, journalist Saba Naqvi, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, and Hindu Mahasabha activist Pooja Shakun Pandey, and others at one go defies logic. The police believe that many others cutting across religions had created animosity and spread inflammatory misinformation. This may be true in some instances, but clubbing of several such instances, instead of investigating and prosecuting them separately, gives the impression that these emanate from a general culture of hate and intolerance, and an endless cycle of tit-for-tat religious insults. Actually, some of these could be wilful transgressions of the law aimed at creating disharmony and inciting violence for political purposes.

Mr. Owaisi has questioned the registration of a case against him, maintaining that the Delhi Police are displaying 'both-sidesism' due to their fear of prosecuting the former BJP functionaries in isolation. Pursuing all these remarks in a single probe and trial would mean that material must be gathered from various social media platforms against all of them – leading to a prolonged trial. The tactic of putting a 'part-of-a-larger-plot' spin on specific offences is not new. The Bhima Koregaon case was transmogrified into a purported conspiracy to foment a Maoist insurrection; in the aftermath of the East Delhi riots, communal violence was linked with the Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests. If the idea was to open up the larger field of political dissent in those cases, the strategy now seems to be to drag those who made vocal responses into the criminal ambit so that the original offence appears diluted and becomes difficult to prosecute. Investigative agencies should pursue legal action against individuals in a proportionate manner and not through omnibus prosecutions just to give an impression of being 'balanced'.

Threat to democracy

The report of the House panel on Capitol riots might be toothless, but is a setback for Trump

The bipartisan Congressional committee looking into the deadly January 6, 2021, attack by a mob on the very seat of the Houses of the U.S. Congress has painted a clear picture of the attempt by former President Donald Trump and his allies to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, even if that meant he might damage the U.S. government and purposefully instigate violence to cling on to power, creating "a moment of maximum danger" for the foundations of American democracy. At the first public hearing by the House of Representatives committee, its chairman and vice chairwoman played multiple videos of Mr. Trump's Attorney General, William Barr; and his daughter Ivanka Trump, among others, making statements on camera that pointed towards Mr. Trump's role in fuelling the violence that day. The hearings made clear that Mr. Trump was responsible for several such critical acts of commission and omission, including ignoring intelligence reports that had been passed on to the White House beforehand that the protests could turn violent. Critically, Mr. Trump refused to intervene, for example by deploying the National Guard, as the rioting got out of control and far-right groups such as the Proud Boys, unleashed organised violence after a rally near the Capitol, resulting in some deaths, defacement of public property and an unprecedented security threat to members of Congress in the building.

The January 6 assault came directly on the heels of one of the most vicious election campaigns, waged by Mr. Trump and his Republican acolytes. It not only saw them denigrating minorities, women and the U.S.'s involvement in multilateral and regional organisations but also led to a targeted misinformation campaign against the poll results over the fact that ballot votes and runoff elections in some U.S. States impacted the final outcome of a win for President Joe Biden. The work of the House committee looking into the Capitol attack might be politically consequential, for it is a reminder of the extreme lengths to which Mr. Trump and his supporters will go to undermine the rule of law to stay in power. Yet it is ultimately toothless, because it has no constitutional path that leads to debarring him from standing for election again in 2024, an outcome that is looking increasingly likely given his persisting popularity and the absence of any other strong potential Republican presidential nominee. Having survived two impeachment attempts, and with a legal question mark hanging over the prospect of using the 14th Amendment to ban him from public office for his role in an insurrection against the U.S. government, Mr. Trump looks well-placed to run for the White House and resume his antagonistic politics, should he choose to.

Musings on 'Indic civilisation' and Indianness

India's civilisational heritage must be treated as a matter of pride — as one that unites every Indian

SHASHI THAROOR

I have been musing about the nature of Indian nationhood for at least the last four decades, ever since a distinguished foreigner said to me: 'You Indians have allowed yourself to forget that there is such a thing as Indic civilization. And we are its last outpost.'

The words were spoken to me in 1982, when I headed the United Nations office in Singapore, by the Khmer nationalist politician and one-time Prime Minister, Son Sann, lamenting India's support for Vietnam in its conquest of Cambodia in 1979. To Son Sann, a venerable figure then already in his late seventies, Cambodia was an 'Indic civilization' being overrun by the forces of a Sinic state, and he was bewildered that India, the fount of his country's heritage, should sympathise with a people as distinctly un-Indian as the Vietnamese. Given that Vietnam's invasion had put an end to the blood-soaked terror of the rule of the Khmer Rouge, I was more inclined to see the choice politically than in terms of civilisational heritage. But Son Sann's words stayed with me.

The long reach of culture

They came back to mind during a visit to Angkor Wat, perhaps the greatest Hindu temple ever built anywhere in the world – and in Cambodia, not in India. To walk past those exquisite sculptures recounting tales from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, to have my Cambodian guide tell me about the significance of the symbols protecting the shrine – the *naga*, the *simha*, and the *garuda*, corresponding, he said earnestly, to today's navy, army, and air force – and to marvel at the epic scale of a Hindu temple as impressive as the finest cathedral or mosque anywhere in the world, was also to marvel at the extraordinary reach of a major strand of our culture beyond our own shores. Hinduism was brought to Cambodia by merchants and travellers more than a millennium ago. It has long since disappeared, supplanted by Buddhism, also an Indian export. But at its peak, Hinduism profoundly influenced the culture, music, dance, and mythology of the Cambodian people. My Cambodian guide at Bayon, a few minutes' drive from Angkor Wat, spoke with admiration of a sensibility which, in the 16th century, saw Hindus and Buddhists worship side by side in adjoining shrines within the same temple complex. That seems inconceivable today in India, where contestations over places of worship have been reduced to winner-takes-all.

Last outpost standing

Perhaps Son Sann was right, and Cambodia is indeed the last outpost of Indic civilisation in a world increasingly Sinified. But what exactly does that mean? At a time when the north of India was reeling under waves of conquest and cultural stagnation, our forefathers in the South and East were exporting aspects of Indianness to Southeast Asia. It was an anonymous task, carried out not, for the most part, by warriors blazing across the land bearing swords of conquest, but by individuals who had come in peace, to trade, to teach, and to persuade. Their impact was profound. To this day, the kings of Thailand are crowned in the presence of Brahmin priests; the Muslims of Java still bear Sanskritised names, despite their conversion to Islam, a faith whose adherents normally bear names originating in Arabia; Garuda is Indonesia's national airline, and Ramayana its best-selling brand of clove cigars; even the Philippines has produced a pop-dance ballet about Rama's quest for his kidnapped queen. Many Southeast Asian countries also

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mirror the idea of a 'sacred geography': the old Thai kingdom of Ayutthaya derived its name from the Indian Ayodhya, and places in Thailand are associated with events in the Ramayana epic, such as a hill where Hanuman was sent to find the Sanjeevani. Since 1782, Thai kings are still named Rama in continuation of the Ramayana tradition; the current monarch, Vajiralongkorn, is styled Rama X. (The Javanese city of Yogyakarta in Indonesia is also a transliteration of Ayodhya).

Ideas that are inadequate

Indeed the pioneering French Indologist, Sylvain Lévi, spoke and wrote of '*le monde Indien*' or 'greater India', a concept echoed in the American Sanskrit scholar, Sheldon Pollock's 'the Sanskrit cosmopolis'. Both terms refer to countries whose cultures were Indic in the sense of having been strongly influenced by Sanskrit language and literature. For such scholars, the geographical idea of India (the subcontinent bordered by the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Himalayan mountains) and the geopolitical idea of India (today the Republic of India; at its biggest extent, the British Raj as it was in 1914, or more pragmatically, the British India of 1947) are inadequate—for the civilisational idea of India is much broader.

In a perverse way, it is also narrower, for Indic civilisation was often not as well-entrenched in some parts of today's Republic of India as it was in countries that were not, for long, part of any Indian polity, such as Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Java, Bali, or Sumatra. These countries, at least during large parts of the first millennium CE, were 'culturally as much Indian as Andhra Pradesh or Bangladesh during that very period', argues the French Indologist, Gérard Fussman. 'In these countries, non-Sanskritic languages were spoken and local gods were worshipped. But the language of culture and politics was Sanskrit as in India proper, or Pali; the upper strata's cults were Hindu or Buddhist, as in India proper; artists and architects followed the precepts of Sanskrit technical treatises.'

But contemporary international politics has rendered all this much less significant than the modern indices of strategic thinking, economic interests, and geopolitical affinities. India is far less important to the countries that still bear such 'Indic' influence than, say, China, whose significance is contemporary, rather than civilisational.

The idea of India and beyond

Should we care, and what, if anything, does this have to do with the idea of India? Of course, we should care: no great civilisation can afford to be indifferent to the way in which it is perceived by others. But what, today, is Indic civilisation? Some have argued that India is a "civilization-state" rather than a "nation-state", but they anchor the idea of Indian civilisation solely in the Hindu dharma, with no regard for the multiple non-Hindu influences that have undoubtedly helped shape contemporary Indian civilisation. The Huntington idea that the principal fault lines in the world would be between civilisations rather than ideologies – over identity rather than ideas – appeals to votaries of the Hindutva movement, who see Hindu civilisation as the defining characteristic of the Indian nation. Atal Bihari Vajpayee had stated bluntly: "For me, Hindu Nation and Indian Nation are synonyms." But this is a highly contestable proposition. Can we afford to anchor ourselves in a purely atavistic view of ourselves, hailing the religious and cultural heritage of our forebears without recognising the extent to which we ourselves have changed?

A hybrid

The examples I have cited are, after all, all from the Hindu tradition. But is not Indian civilisation today an evolved hybrid that draws as much from the influence of Islam, Buddhism, Christianity, and Sikhism, not to mention two centuries of British colonial rule? Can we speak of Indian culture today without *qawwali*, the poetry of Ghalib, or for that matter the game of cricket, our de facto national sport? When an Indian dons a 'national dress' for a formal event, he wears a variant of the *sherwani*, which did not exist before the Muslim invasions of India.

When Indian Hindus voted a few years ago, in a cynical and contrived competition on the Internet, to select the 'new seven wonders' of the modern world, they voted for the Taj Mahal constructed by a Mughal king, not for Angkor Wat, the most magnificent architectural product of their religion. So, does not Indianness today – composed of elements influenced by various civilisations that have made their homes on Indian soil – subsume the classical Indic civilisation that Son Sann was referring to? It does, and we are all much better for it. Let us treat our civilisational heritage as a matter of pride, and not of parochialism; as a heritage that unites, rather than divides one Indian from another.

Shashi Tharoor is the Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram and the Sahitya Akademi award-winning author of 23 books, including a study of nationalism globally and in India, 'The Battle of Belonging', 2021

Survivor Boris needs more than Johnson's band-aid

The British Prime Minister is relying on populism to pull him through but political challenges loom large

PRIYANJALI MALIK

Boris Johnson may have survived the vote of confidence called by his backbenchers on June 6, but his problems are far from over. The ballot revealed that two in five of his parliamentary colleagues voted against him, and though Conservative Party rules currently do not allow for another challenge within 12 months, there has been talk of amending this procedure. After the vote, Mr. Johnson spoke of 'rebooting' his premiership. But the disillusionment of the electorate, and the anger of his own party, including those backbenchers whose votes he needs to pass any legislation, still remain.

Self-created problems

Mr. Johnson's problems are almost entirely of his own making. He has been investigated for – and found guilty of – having broken the strict COVID-19 regulations he shepherded through. There is disgust that while ordinary people locked themselves away, Downing Street seemed awash in a series of alcohol-fuelled parties. Mr. Johnson was pictured at several, but clever legal responses to a police questionnaire on these gatherings meant that he was fined for only one – a celebration of his birthday, for which his Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, was also fined. The Metropolitan Police issued 126 fines to 83 people for 12 lockdown violations at No. 10 – including gatherings that Mr. Johnson attended. Rallying support before the confidence vote, Mr. Johnson replied to a backbencher's query on the parties with 'I'd do it again'. Bravado or hubris? It is difficult to tell, but what is clear is that for Boris Johnson, rules apply to the little people.

For some in his party, this 'culture of casual law-breaking' is the final straw. A former junior Minister, Jesse Norman, publicly called out the Prime Minister's disregard for the rules and agreements he has made, warning that he is weakening his party and the country in the process. Mr. Johnson is also causing disquiet by the personality traits that have served him politically so well until now: bluster and a keen populist antenna; a refusal to be bound by commitments; and a willingness to tear up the rule book.

The unspoken rule book laid down the expectation that Mr. Johnson would resign when he was fined for breaking the law. Mr. Johnson refused. Instead, he changed the Ministerial Code so that 'minor' breaches would not automatically become a resignation matter. One of Britain's most

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respected contemporary historians, Lord Hennessy, has described this as 'a bonfire of decencies' and a challenge to a system of government and governance that, starting with the Constitution, relies heavily on unwritten convention.

Plans and likely hurdles

Seemingly to distract, Mr. Johnson is pushing ahead with a number of plans of doubtful legality. The first is his threat to tear up the Northern Ireland Protocol that he agreed with the European Union (EU) as part of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, and which was meant to overcome the obstacles posed by the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which provides for peace in Northern Ireland by removing the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland. This unilateral rewriting of the agreement is probably illegal. It most certainly will damage Britain's credibility and relations with the EU, which is still its largest trading partner, Brexit notwithstanding.

Mr. Johnson's government will also face legal challenges over plans to resettle refugees (who have been deemed to have entered the United Kingdom illegally) in Rwanda, a state whose human rights record the U.K. has disparaged. The plan has been criticised as unethical, uneconomical, impractical and possibly illegal by a range of public figures – from the Archbishop of Canterbury, former Prime Minister Theresa May, civil servants in the Home Office, and reportedly, Prince Charles. These concerns are secondary to Mr. Johnson. Those singled out for resettlement will not make a material difference to the total number of refugees, but this dog-whistle distraction will rally the party faithful to the old tried and tested cause of immigration.

Mr. Johnson is relying on populism to pull him through. To a country that is struggling with a cost of living crisis, rising inflation, falling living standards and a sense of dread over rising energy costs, Boris Johnson's promises to the country have been a pledge to return to imperial measurements and to dust off an old plan to offer home ownership to those currently relying on state support but without a plan to build more affordable homes in an already overheated housing market. The resurrection of imperial measurements is emblematic of Mr. Johnson's slipping hold on power. He entered Downing Street on the back of Brexit promises of 'taking back control', returning Britain to its former (presumably imperial) glory, and making Britain a global powerhouse for trade and innovation by paradoxically relying on its historical greatness. Mr. Johnson rallies the faithful by summoning history. A return to pounds and ounces will not bring back the Empire and all the money that flowed to Britain from it. It will not even cause the former colonies to suddenly desire a trade deal with Britain unless it serves their interests.

There are concerns

Mr. Johnson now has to deliver. Perhaps he is only still in Downing Street because there is no obvious replacement. However, the Conservatives will almost certainly lose two by-elections later this month. He has also managed to upset almost every segment of his party for reasons that go beyond his COVID-19 rule breaking. Some disagree with his recent tax rises; others criticise Brexit for either being too extreme for the centrists, or not extreme enough for those on the far right; and yet more are deeply concerned about the personal failings of a flawed individual. For now, Mr. Johnson will limp on, but, barring a political miracle, it is only a matter of time before he is challenged again.

Priyanjali Malik is a London-based author and commentator

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Widespread protests

The eruption of violence in several parts of the country over denigrating remarks against the Prophet is unfortunate. While the aggrieved minority community has every right to protest peacefully, their leaders have to exercise caution and not allow it to morph into violence. Meanwhile, the BJP-led government needs to understand that India's image as a secular and liberal democracy has taken a beating in the eyes of the international community. Rather than play to the gallery of communal elements, it is time the BJP's central leadership sends out a stern warning against certain elements and reins them in. Dialling down communal tensions is the need of hour.

M. JEYARAM,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

■ Religious sentiments and diplomacy have got intertwined in a complex web which has only complicated the issue. The Government must realise that it cannot get away with bigotry. Insensitive remarks or acts by the Government and its spokespersons will only spell danger for India's economic development.

TANISHA JOSHI,
Pune

■ The protracted protests may appear disproportionately excessive, but the fact of the matter is that the remarks acted as the straw that broke the camel's back. A sense of feeling that they are being driven to the wall has been building in the minority community due to what they perceive as continual measures of religious 'othering' employed by zealots, who in turn are supported by political masters. Instead of reaching out to the wounded minds, employing 'revenge by bulldozer' would be a cure much worse than the malady.

AYYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH,
Aranmula, Kerala

■ Resorting to violence and pelting stones are unacceptable. The culprits should be severely punished. At the same time, the U.P. government's move to demolish the buildings of the 'accused' using bulldozers is nothing but a revengeful act. The law must apply. The BJP government should take a lesson from these distressing incidents – loose cannons and loud mouths who damage the party's and India's image must be controlled firmly.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ The protests and violence need to condemned and perpetrators need to be punished as per the rule of law; the selective use of bulldozers is not a solution. It is a surprise that the President of India has not expressed much concern over attacks on the minorities. It is the deafening silence from the leaders who matter that is also contributing to the general turmoil.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

Rajya Sabha elections

As anticipated, the electoral battle to the 16 Rajya Sabha seats across the four States (Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Haryana) had all the key ingredients associated with any high-profile election: high octane canvassing, cross voting, sequestering in resorts, horse trading, backstabbing and suspensions (Page 1, "Blame game begins as BJP wins 3rd seat in Maharashtra", June 12). Overall, the elections to the Upper House can be termed a precursor to the presidential elections, requiring the Opposition parties to fine-tune the humongous task of poll management. Importantly, the issue of vulnerability among some lawmakers has to be effectively addressed.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,
Chennai

Afghan women's rights are at risk

The growing restrictions on women's rights debunk the myth that Taliban 2.0 is moderate or reformed

SHANTHIE MARIET D'SOUZA

In a rare interview, broadcast by CNN on May 17, Afghanistan's Interior Minister and head of the dreaded Haqqani Network, Sirajuddin Haqqani, promised "very good news" soon on the return of girls to secondary schools that have remained shut since March this year, just hours after their reopening. However, any euphoria about this could be misplaced given the number of regressive steps taken by the Taliban to curb women and girls' freedom since they took power in August 2021.

The Taliban's true colours

The initial shock following the Taliban's seizure of power in Kabul is waning. The Taliban, who during the initial period of the takeover had demonstrated a modicum of moderation to gain international acceptability, funding and recognition, have now started showing their true colours. For long-term observers of Afghanistan, this is hardly surprising. Notwithstanding the U.S.-mediated 2020 peace deal, which seemed to erroneously pin hopes on a "reformed" Taliban to govern the country, many observers had issued warnings that the takeover of power by the Taliban would result in the loss of the fragile gains made in Afghanistan over the last two decades.

While there can be a debate over the gains made by the international community in Afghanistan in the last 20 years, it was unmistakable that opportunities for girls and women in education and employment had expanded vastly. Female participation in Afghanistan's labour force had climbed from around 15% in 2009 to nearly 22% in 2019. During my frequent visits to various provinces of Afghanistan, it was always heartening to see women play important roles in the government, parliament, the media, the health and education sectors, and in civil society. They had carved space for themselves in conflict-ridden patriarchal structures and systems. Though the various interventions by the international community on women's issues did not transform the structures, they did provide opportunities for women to be enablers of change. In parliament, and in the provincial councils of Kandahar, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Herat, Balkh and others, young women took grave risks in political participation and mobilisation.

Today, those voices are lost. A report from the International Labour Organization in January 2022 found that Afghan women's employment levels fell by an estimated 16% in the third quarter of 2021, compared with 6% for men. By mid-2022, women's employment is expected to be 21% lower than before the Taliban takeover, if current conditions continue. In a rush to reach out to the Taliban during the peace processes, protection of the rights of women were hardly emphasised as a red line. As fatigue towards the war developed within and outside the country, there were barely any concerted efforts in making women rights and human rights a non-negotiable part of the negotiations. The participation of a few Afghan women representatives in the intra-Afghan dialogue in Doha had raised expectations in the international community that the insurgents had reformed and would be willing to accept women's role in Afghan society and government. These hopes were, however, shattered.

There is speculation that the Taliban are in the process of the finalising the dress code in schools for girls. Haqqani did refer to the "requirement" that education should be based on Afghan "culture" and "Islamic rules and principles". He referred "more broadly" to the issue of women wearing the hijab. The Taliban are not just identifying dress codes for girls and women; men too have been asked to wear particular types of clothes and grow a beard, which has led to hair dressers bringing down the shutters on their business. However, with regard to women, the Taliban's diktats have been particularly harsh.

A regressive mindset

Since the capture of power in Kabul, the Taliban have made a series of contradicting moves on the issue of return of women to public life. Initially they referred to the prevalence of chaos and insecurity and asked women to stay indoors. The Taliban's acting Prime Minister, Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, claimed that women would be allowed to continue working under Sharia law, but female government employees in Kabul were then told to stay at home. Only women whose jobs cannot be performed by men were allowed to work. Subsequently, the regime brought in rules which forbade women from venturing out if they were not accompanied by a male relative. On May 7, the Taliban chief, Hibatullah Akhundzada, issued a decree making an all-covering burqa mandatory for women. It is, therefore, unlikely that Haqqani's assurance of "very good news" will reverse the group's regressive outlook.

It is clear that Taliban 2.0 is in no way different from the Taliban that ruled the country between 1996 and 2001. The stories of a "reformed" and "moderate" Taliban, which were narrated by sections of the media, were naïve. I had conducted an interview in May 2012 with Maulvi Qalamuddin, former Deputy Minister for the General Department for the Promotion of Virtue and Elimination of Vice of the Taliban, a post in which he oversaw the implementation of extreme Islamic laws through religious police squads who kept a close watch of the Afghan populace, at the High Peace Council in Kabul, an Afghan organisation set up by President Hamid Karzai in 2010 to negotiate with the Taliban-led insurgency. When I asked him whether women's rights would be protected if the Taliban were to come back, he responded: "The west does not understand Afghan society. I am not against women working in offices or going out in public alone. Look, you are a foreigner. If you can cover your head and respect our culture, we appreciate and expect the same from Afghan women. The present breed of Afghan women appearing on TV without head scarves is not acceptable. Women need to adhere to the Sharia laws in consonance with the Afghan culture." His answers hardly denoted a change of heart.

The greatest impact of denial of rights for women in the workforce would be a sharp contraction in the economy. In addition to the loss of rights, many households run by women could be staring at a bleak future. As per the World Bank, in 2019, 36% of teachers in the country were women, the highest number for 20 years. But most female educators have been forced out of work by the Taliban's ban on education for girls in March 2022. By the end of 2021, fewer than 100 of Kabul's 700 female journalists were still working (Reporters Without Borders data).

As the war in Ukraine has grabbed and retained international attention, Afghanistan seems to have been forgotten yet again. Occasionally, the plight of Afghan women and the Taliban's atrocities find mention in the media. The Taliban do not shy from leveraging the issue to gain international attention. The international community, therefore, needs to make a concerted and coordinated attempt to protect the rights of Afghan women and girls and ensure that Afghanistan's de facto rulers are held accountable for their actions.

Shanthie Mariet D'Souza is Founder & President, Mantraya and Visiting Research Fellow, SWP, Berlin. She has conducted field research and worked with women's groups for more than a decade in Afghanistan

Rein in the vigilantes

The only long-term and viable way forward for the BJP is through moderation not just in rhetoric but in its politics

RUCHI GUPTA

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is at a crossroads. From a mere two MPs in 1984, it has acquired power across vast swathes of India and at all levels of the decision-making apparatus both within and outside government. Today, no State remains immune to the politics of the BJP. At the height of power, the question confronting the BJP is whether it should become more radically right wing to keep the electorate polarised or moderate its pitch to try and appeal to a diverse electorate. There are indications of both impulses in the BJP, but as the international row over the comments made against Prophet Mohammad by now-suspended members of the party shows, it will be a mistake to assume that a moderate stance can co-exist with radical rabble-rousing.

The party's rabble-rousing

The impulse towards radicalism and polarisation is evident not just in the explosion of hate speech against minorities, as seen in Dharam Sansads where there are open calls for mass murder, the "80-20" rhetoric in the U.P. election, and on other occasions, but in the repeated attempt to force conflict with Muslims and provoke reactions through the hijab controversy in Karnataka, the namaz issue in Gurugram, and the calls to search for *shivlings* in mosques. These issues are irrelevant to the assertion and consolidation of the Hindu identity unless the basis of Hindu identity is not its own rich cultural ethos but in playing an antagonist to a Muslim protagonist. Serious BJP leaders and supporters try to explain this rabble-rousing in two ways: first, by trying to distance the party from the most egregious instances by labeling such persons as "fringe" or lower-level leaders who are jostling to gain visibility or an upper hand against competitors in factional battles; and second, by dismissing them as one-off crude excesses by hitherto suppressed non-elites who are now finding their voice. These explanations are unconvincing as there is no condemnation of, or action against, these "fringe" actors. Instead, the cadre seems to find an identity and purpose by bullying minorities under the auspices of the BJP leadership.

This strategy is misguided and needs a rethink. The explosion of hate against minorities is against not just national interest but also the BJP's own long-term interest. Leaders trying to establish new organisations often work outside the bounds of mainstream behaviour or law for various reasons such as lack of social or financial capital and increased visibility from shock value to attract committed cadres through sharp messaging, polarisation, etc. However, as organisations acquire power and influence and grow to a certain size, they seek legitimacy to further consolidate their position. In a democracy, winning elections provides legitimacy. But the pursuit of an overtly sectarian agenda delegitimises both the electoral victory and the governance record of the ruling party.

The path ahead

In the last eight years, the BJP has pushed back against any criticism as elite myopia. However, it should be evident that mainstream legitimacy cannot be gained by marginalising 15% of the country's population. This is for two reasons. First, embarrassing excesses are not aberrations but the inevitable tendency of politicians to exaggerate cleavages. If the leadership does not set and enforce boundaries of acceptable behaviour for its cadre, lower-level leaders will trend towards more obnoxious behaviour, thus moving the party outside of the present leadership's own comfort zone. This is already visible in the criticism of the BJP leadership by a section of its supporters online for the action taken against the two BJP office bearers. Second, the conflict that is being pursued by a section of the leadership with 15% of the population will inevitably strain the rule of law and impact governance.

In the absence of an assertive national opposition, it will be a mistake to assume that repeated electoral victories are vindication of divisive politics. There is evidence around the country of people becoming weary of the constant hate and the specter of widespread violence, but they lack a national political platform to channelise this disenchantment into meaningful opposition. Moreover, the kind of politics being pursued by the BJP now will also make it difficult for it to find allies in the future to counterbalance the inevitable anti-incumbency of two terms. The only long-term and viable way forward for the BJP then is through moderation – not just in rhetoric but in its politics. The strand of welfare-driven, cultural nationalism being pursued by the BJP is within the realm of mainstream politics and provides a ready template for the party of the future. How the BJP will evolve is for its leadership to decide. However, it must rein in vigilantes and make it clear that the path to advancement in the party does not lie in propagating hate.

Ruchi Gupta is the Executive Director of the Future of India Foundation. Twitter: guptar

STATE OF PLAY

It is Naveen Patnaik all the way

By defeating the BJP in successive elections, the BJD continues to be the dominant party in Odisha

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

In the Brajarajnagar bypoll in Odisha, Alaka Mohanty, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) candidate, polled 61.24% of the votes, beating the Congress and BJP candidates hollow. This was the BJD's fifth bypoll victory on the trot. With this win, the BJD's strength in the 147-member Assembly has gone up to 113 and the Naveen Patnaik-led regional party has shown just how seemingly invincible it is at this point. In the March 2022 rural polls, the BJD had won nearly 90% or 766 of the 852 Zilla Parishad seats. The BJP and Congress had to contend with 42 and 37 seats, respectively. The BJD later swept the urban body polls too, by winning 76 of the 108 civic bodies.

What do these victories signify for the BJD? In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP had won eight seats and secured 38.4% of the votes. In the Assembly elections that year, it dislodged the Congress from the second position by winning 23 of the 147 seats. It created a massive buzz around these victories. This apparently did not go down well with Mr. Patnaik, who is known as a silent yet ruthless leader in electoral politics. The BJD's victories in subsequent elections showed his determination in halting the BJP's march. The Brajarajnagar bypoll result is especially important as the Assembly segment is part of the Bargarh parliamentary constituency, which the BJP had won in 2019. The BJD has been trying to re-consolidate its position in the districts of western Odisha, which are considered a BJP stronghold. In most of the bypolls after the 2019 elections, the BJD supremo did not campaign in person for the party. He sent out the message that the BJD has a robust election machinery and did not need him for canvassing every time.

For the BJP, the bypoll loss was humiliating as it had fielded Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. With the BJD's winning streak, the BJP appears to be losing the significant inroads it had made into the regional party's bastions in the 2017 panchayat and 2019 Assembly elections.

Mr. Patnaik, who is serving his fifth term as Chief Minister, is the undisputed leader of his party. Political observers say the manner in which he reconstituted his cabinet after the Brajarajnagar bypoll victory was unprecedented. He directed all the ministers to tender their resignation. After the formation of the new council of ministers, Mr. Patnaik invited 11 of the dropped ministers to work for the organisation. No murmurs were heard against the decision.

If there is one issue which sent the BJD government into a panic in recent times, it was the controversy over its flagship beautification programme of the Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri, which the government is trying to develop along the lines of the Kashi-Vishwanath Corridor project. The BJP had alleged that the project would pose a threat to the safety and stability of the temple. However, the Supreme Court dismissed the petition challenging the project and provided relief to the BJD. Significantly, Jagannath Saraka, the tribal leader from Rayagada, was called to take oath ahead of others in the new ministry despite not being a senior minister nor holding a key portfolio. Mr. Patnaik is known for such symbolism. The Shree Mandira Parikrama Project, Mr. Patnaik's temple development programme, is aimed at blocking all of the BJP's efforts to challenge the BJD.

The bypoll victory, the reshuffle, and the redevelopment of the surroundings of the Jagannath temple appear to have energised Mr. Patnaik, who is said to be undertaking his first foreign tour in a decade at the end of this month. In 2012, the BJD supremo had faced a revolt when he was abroad. Ten years later, it is clear that he is in absolute command.

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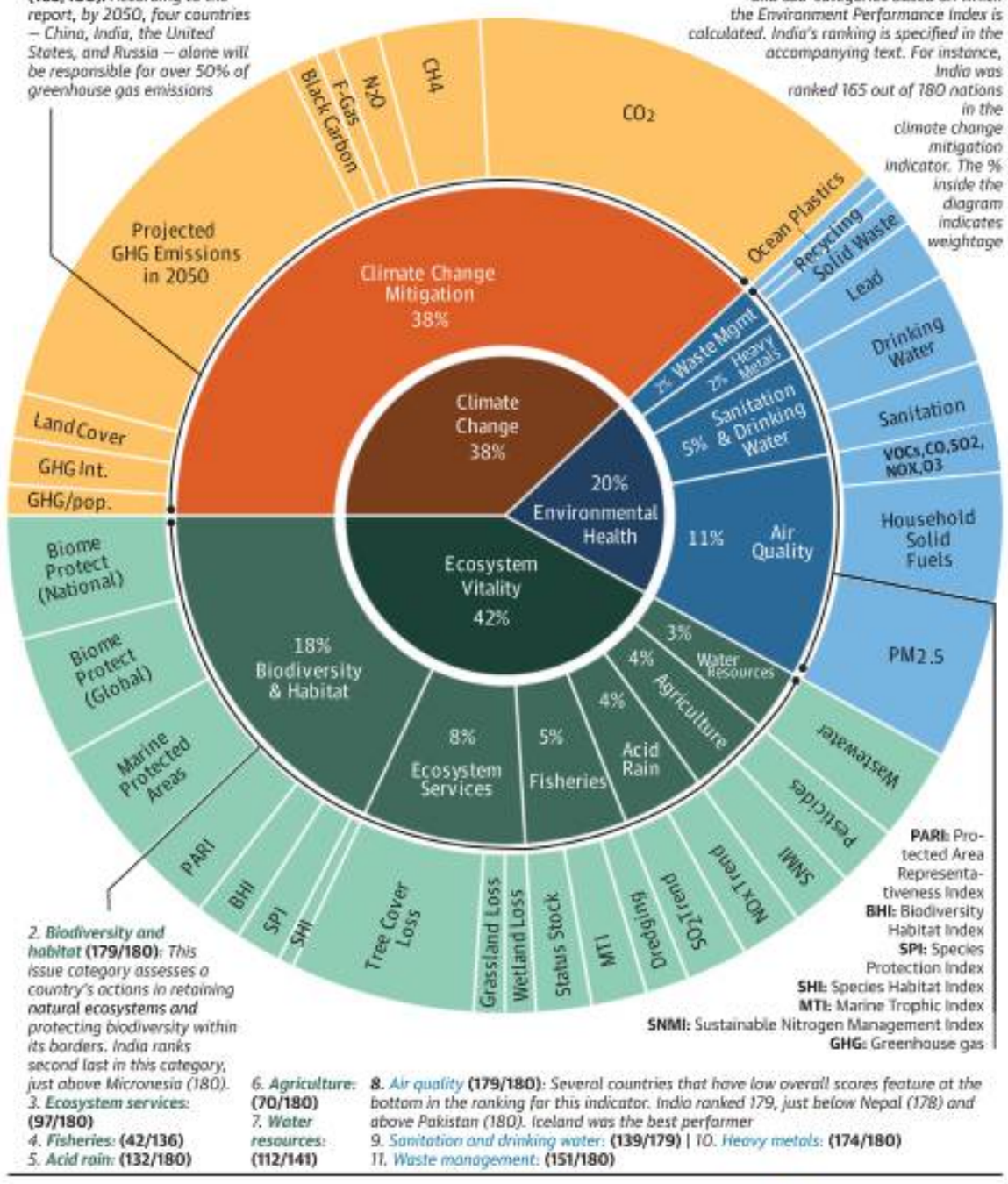
DATA POINT

Environment index: India ranked last

India scored the lowest among 180 countries in the Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2022, published by researchers from Yale and Columbia Universities. Denmark ranked first with an overall score of 77.90, while India scored 18.90. The report assesses countries on 40 performance indicators which are further grouped into 11 issue categories. At the core of the report lie three policy objectives: environmental health, ecosystem vitality and climate change. The index scores countries between 0 and 100, from worst to best performance. A perfect 100 score indicates that the country has achieved an internationally recognised sustainability target or the expert consensus of good performance. Among the 11 issue categories, India's performance was poorest in air quality (179), exposure to heavy metals (174), quality of bio-diversity and habitat (179) and climate change mitigation (165)

1. Climate change mitigation **(165/180):** *According to the report, by 2050, four countries – China, India, the United States, and Russia – alone will be responsible for over 50% of greenhouse gas emissions*

The sun-burst diagram shows the indicators and sub-categories based on which the Environment Performance Index is calculated. India's ranking is specified in the accompanying text. For instance, India was ranked 165 out of 180 nations in the climate change mitigation indicator. The % inside the diagram indicates weightage



2. Biodiversity and habitat **(179/180):** *This issue category assesses a country's actions in retaining natural ecosystems and protecting biodiversity within its borders. India ranks second last in this category, just above Micronesia (180).*
3. Ecosystem services: **(97/180)**
4. Fisheries: **(42/136)**
5. Acid rain: **(132/180)**
6. Agriculture: **(70/180)**
7. Water resources: **(112/141)**
8. *Air quality* **(179/180):** *Several countries that have low overall scores feature at the bottom in the ranking for this indicator. India ranked 179, just below Nepal (178) and above Pakistan (180). Iceland was the best performer*
9. Sanitation and drinking water: **(139/179)** | *10. Heavy metals:* **(174/180)**
11. Waste management: **(151/180)**

PARI: Protected Area Representativeness Index
BHI: Biodiversity Habitat Index
SPI: Species Protection Index
SHI: Species Habitat Index
MTI: Marine Trophic Index
SNMI: Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index
GHG: Greenhouse gas

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 13, 1972

People abandon homes for fields

Vijayawada, June 12: Afraid of fire outbreaks, hundreds of people in some of the villages in Krishna district have abandoned their homes and are living in the open fields. Besides those rendered shelterless by the fires, there were also people who dismantled their thatched roof houses and moved with their families to the fields with conviction that it is easier to brave the hot sun than the devastating fires. A visit to Poranki, Vanukuru, Gosala Godavarru and Kolavennu villages – all of which have been hit by fires in the last one week – revealed that the villagers are haunted by fears of arson. They have formed squads and are keeping vigil round the clock. They would not allow a stranger to enter the village without interrogating them. They are taking extreme precaution in handling the ovens. This morning a woman in a vacant site at Kolavenu village was seen pouring a bucket of water to put out the fire in an oven. Vanukuru and Kolavennu saw the fires again devastate houses and hayricks on a much larger scale yesterday. With hundreds of haystacks destroyed, fodder has become a problem in the villages. Even palmyrah leaves, which are traditionally used for roofing, are not available in sufficient quantity.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 13, 1922

An ear to hear ants' talk

A remarkable sound-magnifying device has been produced says a correspondent. It is known as the radio phone, and is stated to be the most powerful sound-amplifier known. By means of it sounds that are just audible to the human ear are intensified many thousands of times, as is necessary in wireless telephony, but the instrument also enables sounds whose frequency is too high to affect our ear-drums, and which we consequently do not hear, to be so modified and magnified that they are audible. Hence, the radiophone should prove of great value to botanists and etymologists in enabling them to listen to the noises made by insects, which although normally inaudible, are nevertheless made, since the microscope has shown the presence of soul-producing organs. It may even be possible to detect some definite means of communication between ants, bees, and other insects who live in highly organised communities. It is known that such insects communicate by touch, but this does not entirely negativise the chance that they "speak" as well.

FROM PAGE ONE

Adani power project sparks row in Sri Lanka

The energy project is the second major venture in Sri Lanka involving the Adani Group, after it bagged a strategic port terminal deal in Colombo. The Group was brought in to execute the West Container Terminal project at the Colombo Port, with majority stakes, after Colombo unilaterally cancelled a trilateral agreement among the governments of Sri Lanka and India and Japan to jointly build the East Container Terminal at the same port.

The Adani Group, Sri Lankan Ministers have said, was the Indian government's "nominee" in both cases, indicating there was no competitive bidding process. Similarly, there is no information of a tendering process having preceded the energy agreement signed by the Group and the CEB. Even the agreement was not officially publicised by either side, and came to light only after Sri Lankan media reported on the development.

Further, India is also executing hybrid energy projects in three islands off Jaffna Peninsula, after displacing a Chinese energy project.

Though China had won the contract for the project through an Asian Development Bank-backed international competitive bid, Sri Lanka opted for the Indian grant project, following New Delhi's "concerns" with a Chinese project close to India's southern coast.

Protests on in Bengal, more people arrested

While Mr. Mohammad's family accused the administration of vendetta and said their house was demolished without any legal sanction, Prayagraj District Magistrate Sanjay Kumar Khatri said the demolition was carried out following the "laid-down procedure" after issuing proper notices to the house owners.

The family, however, said they were not aware of any such proceedings apart from a notice carrying backdated information stuck on their house the night before the demolition.

Mr. Mohammad is a member of the federal committee of the Welfare Party of India, headed by SQR Ilyas, father of jailed JNU student leader Umar Khalid. His daughter Afreen Fatima is a student-activist based in Delhi.

Senior Superintendent of Police (Prayagraj) Ajay Kumar said Mr. Mohammad had emerged as the "facilitator" of the stone-throwing and other violence in the Atala area of Prayagraj on Friday. While the police had earlier blamed him for organising the protest and sent his mobile phone for forensic probe, on Sunday, Mr. Kumar said they recovered "illegal weapons," a 12 bore illegal country-made pistol, a 315 bore pistol and some cartridges, and "objectionable posters" from the building.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi joined a large number of social media users to condemn the demolition. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said the demolition did not have any sanction. The family later filed a petition in the Allahabad High Court.

(With PTI inputs)

2 arrested in connection with Jama Masjid protest in Delhi

Sections pertaining to promoting enmity between groups added to FIR, say police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Two days after a brief protest was held at the Jama Masjid against the remarks made by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Muhammed, two persons have been arrested by the Delhi Police in connection with the agitation, officers said on Sunday.

The police have also added Sections of the Indian Penal Code pertaining to promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion to the existing first information report lodged on Friday, under Sections pertaining to order duly promulgated by public servant.

Over 300 persons on Friday staged a protest at the Jama Masjid following the Friday prayers, demanding Ms. Sharma's arrest. The police had lodged a case against the protesters for holding the agitation without permission and promoting enmity between different groups. The protesters were later removed by the police.

Sparking outcry: People protesting against the remarks by now-suspended BJP leaders in New Delhi on Friday. • PTI

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Shweta Chauhan said Mohammed Nadeem, 45, an electrician and Faheem Khan, 37, a vegetable vendor, were arrested on Saturday night.

"After the Friday prayers, Khan was seen with a poster and was raising slogans. He was also seen hooting and shouting, protesting against Ms. Sharma and Naveen Jindal during the unlawful assembly at Jama Masjid. Nadeem was also seen raising slogans in the crowd," Ms. Chauhan said.

Senior officers said the protesters were mobilised through WhatsApp groups and more details about such groups were being gathered. Ms. Chauhan said the protests were planned and that since the protests took place without permission, appropriate action would be taken against those identified.

Modi must break his silence, says Digvijaya

'PM responsible for global backlash'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL

Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Digvijaya Singh on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was responsible for the global backlash following the controversial statements made by suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Prophet Muhammed. Mr. Modi should break his silence on the matter, he said.

"The party may have suspended her, but who is responsible for the infamy that the statement has brought for India? The Prime Minister gives a statement on almost everything, why is he silent on this matter?" said Mr. Singh, after a press conference at the party's State headquarters here.

He also questioned the "fringe elements" descriptor being used for Ms. Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal, a fellow spokesperson who was expelled after the outcry. "We are talking about a national spokesperson who is expressing the party's ideology. How can she [Ms. Sharma] be described as a fringe element and if indeed she is one, the party president [J.P. Nadda] has to own up for nominating her as spokesperson and apologise for the same," Mr. Singh said.

Digvijaya Singh

'No compromise on honour of the Prophet'

Bangladesh Minister Hasan Mahmud hopes India will take action against former BJP leaders

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
DHAKA

Bangladesh is not compromising on the honour of the Prophet, Hasan Mahmud, Information Minister in the Sheikh Hasina government, said on Saturday. The Minister's remarks came against the backdrop of continued protests in different parts of Bangladesh against the comments by two former BJP leaders on Prophet Muhammed.

In a freewheeling discussion with a visiting team of Indian media professionals, Mr. Mahmud said Ms. Hasina acted promptly in containing communal flare-ups in Bangladesh last year and that India had invited the Prime Minister to pay a visit to New Delhi. He, however, did not provide a specific date for the visit of Ms. Hasina in July.

> It's an internal issue of India, and for Bangladesh, it's an external matter. Wherever such things happen, we condemn them. We are not compromising the honour of the Prophet
>
> HASAN MAHMUD
> Information Minister, Bangladesh

"It's an internal issue of India and for Bangladesh, it's an external matter. Wherever such things happen, we condemn them. We are not compromising on the honour of the Prophet," said Mr. Mahmud, presenting the perspective of Bangladesh regarding the comments that have triggered a strong backlash from West Asian countries.

Mr. Mahmud said he would not like to instigate an issue regarding the derogatory comments and added, "Why should I ignite the issue? My job is not to ignite." *The Hindu* had earlier reported that in view of the Prophet-related controversy in India, certain officials in Dhaka were considering that instead of the expected trip in July, Prime Minister Hasina could visit Delhi in September or even later depending on her schedule and convenience. Mr. Mahmud indicated at the packed schedule of Ms. Hasina in the coming weeks when her priorities will be on internal political and developmental initiatives.

Legal process

Mr. Mahmud expressed hope that the Indian legal process would take its course against former BJP leaders Nupur Sharma and Navin Kumar Jindal. "Action will be taken by India," he said. Mr. Mahmud drew attention to the communal flare-up of last October when Hindu puja pandals were targeted in Bangladesh's Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Chittagong and Rangpur regions, and said Ms. Hasina took exemplary action in containing the damage inflicted upon the minority community.

The 60-year-old Minister, a key figure in the Sheikh Hasina government, maintained that the Prime Minister remained committed to zero tolerance of extremism and terrorism and observed that Dhaka was aware of the presence of such elements in the 20-party Opposition alliance.

"There are some leaders in that alliance who were trained by the al-Qaeda in Afghanistan in the past," said Mr. Mahmud.

Search on for two missing soldiers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Indian Army has been scouting forward areas of Anjaw district in Arunachal Pradesh to trace two soldiers who are missing since May 28. The two are from Uttarakhand, defence officials said on Sunday.

A defence spokesperson based in central Assam's Tezpur said Naik Prakash Singh and Lance Naik Harender Singh were presumed to have accidentally fallen into a fast-flowing river adjoining their post.

"We have had no success in locating them despite immediate and extensive searches involving aerial reconnaissance and tracker dogs," the spokesperson said.

Modern Times: watches keep an eye on workers

The sanitation workers, however, complain that the device has made them a modern-day slave.

Sheila, a sweeper attached with the Corporation, said she had been forced to wear the watch all day and even forced to take care of its maintenance. "Most of the time, I don't even know if it is working or not. As per instructions given to us, it works automatically. We just have to wear it. But I get dizziness whenever I wear it," the 48-year-old, whose shift starts at 6.30 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m., said.

"I live in constant fear, as any fault with the watch could result in my salary getting cut. There have been several instances where my salary has been cut, without even giving a proper reason," said Ms. Sheila, who has faced deductions up to ₹2,000 on her monthly salary of ₹14,000.

Darshna, 48, another sweeper, said there was always the fear of wages being cut even while taking breaks. "It takes an hour and a half to charge the watch. Sometimes, it stops working. There have also been instances where it showed a location different from where I was working," she said, adding her salary was cut by ₹1,500 a month.

Sonu Vinod Kumar, 25, said his blood pressure fluctuated whenever he wore the watch. "When I complained about this, the authorities said I have to keep wearing it while working; else, my salary will get deducted," he said.

Krishan Kumar Chadha, the former president of the Chandigarh Sanitation Workers' Union, said, "This [GPS watches] is a sword hanging above us. They are after our *safai karamchari* community. We want this to stop."

A sanitation worker wearing the GPS-enabled watch. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bhuvaneshwar Kewat, a workers' union leader in Ranchi, said the civic body in the city had bought 900 GPS-enabled watches. "They have not yet been forced upon the workers," Mr. Kewat said adding that most of them belonged to the Dalit community.

"There was a time when the people from the Dalit community were made to attach a broom around their waist, just to indicate that they are from a particular community. These GPS watches are a new form of suppression," Mr. Kewat said.

Recently, the All India Lawyers' Association for Justice (AILAJ) and the Internet Freedom Foundation wrote a joint letter to the National Commission for *Safai Karamcharis* (NCSK) over the increasing surveillance of these workers in the country. The two organisations expressed concern over the effect of these actions on the privacy, dignity and autonomy of the workers.

AILAJ national convener Clifton D'Rozario, said: "While privacy is not an absolute right, any State intrusion into privacy has to satisfy the thresholds of legality, necessity, and proportionality, laid down by the Supreme Court in the Right to Privacy decision". "However, the use of tracking devices on *safai karamcharis* fails to satisfy these thresholds as there is no anchoring legislation or legal framework," he said.

Ink thrown at rape victim in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Unidentified suspects threw ink at a rape victim at Shaheen Bagh in south-east Delhi on Saturday and allegedly threatened her to withdraw the complaint or face consequences.

The woman had said in her complaint that she was raped by the son of Rajasthan Minister Mahesh Joshi.

According to the police, they received a PCR call on Saturday claiming that some miscreants had thrown something on a woman and fled. The woman later told the police that while she was walking with her mother near Kalindi Kunj Road, two boys threw something on her and fled. Subsequently, she was examined at the AIIMS Trauma Centre.

"The blue liquid *prima facie* looks like ink. In the matter, a case under IPC Sections pertaining to criminal intimidation, punishment for voluntarily causing hurt has been lodged and investigation is under way," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Esha Pandey.

Officers said that CCTV footage was being scanned to identify the accused persons.

'India in talks for more Apache, Chinook choppers'

F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet fighter has distinct advantages over Rafale-M, says Boeing official

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet fighter jet has distinct advantages in terms of capability over the competitor French Rafale-M jet to operate from the Indian Navy's aircraft carriers, says a senior official from aircraft manufacturer Boeing. India is also negotiating the purchase of additional Chinook CH-47F(I) Chinook heavy-lift helicopters and AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, according to Torbjorn (Turbo) Sjogren, vice-president, International Government and Defence, Boeing.

"One thing we are very confident about is the capability that readiness and the proficiency of the product. The F/A-18 and F/A-18F can operate off Indian aircraft carriers. That's a clear discriminator we've got over the French," Mr. Turbo said in a virtual interview to *The Hindu*, pointing that the twin seater trainer variant of the Rafale-M cannot operate from carriers and would be sitting on the ground. The number of trainer aircraft within the deal is not an insignificant number, he noted.

Elaborating, he said the size of the carrier, the logistics of the aircraft, in terms of how many aircraft and how to move the aircraft around the carrier, there are challenges. "We have solved that problem. Our team down in Bangalore solved the problem, and we have a solution for that... So there is some tailoring needed, more so in terms of the logistics on board," Mr. Turbo said.

Chinook CH-47 helicopter used by IAF. • R.V. MOORTHY

The Navy had originally projected a requirement of 57 aircraft under the deal, but the number is likely to be revised to 26 within the backdrop of a new indigenous twin engine carrier-based deck fighter being designed and developed indigenously. "We are eager to see when they define what the need is going to be and then how to do it," he said.

With the indigenous carrier *Vikrant* set to be commissioned in August, the Navy is in urgent need of carrier based jets to operate from both the carriers.

Last month, two Boeing F/A-18s were in Goa to demonstrate their compatibility and suitability to operate from Indian aircraft carriers by conducting trials from the Indian Navy's Shore Based Test Facility (SBTF). Rafale-M had carried out similar demonstration earlier this year.

The Indian Air Force operates 22 Apache attack helicopters and 15 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters procured from Boeing through the Foreign Military Sales programme of the U.S. government under a $3 billion deal in September 2015. Further, during the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump in February 2020, India signed a deal for six more Apaches to cost around $800 million.

Talking of the large portfolio of products with the Indian armed forces, Mr. Turbo said, "The performance of our products is instrumental in terms of those campaigns going forward."

Three Lashkar militants killed in Pulwama, another near Srinagar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Three militants of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were killed during an encounter in Pulwama district of south Kashmir, the police said on Sunday.

"All the three killed militants were locals and were linked with LeT outfit. One slain militant, identified as Junaid Sheergojri, was involved in the killing of a policeman, Reyaz Ahmad, on May 13 this year," Inspector-General of Police Vijay Kumar said. The other two were identified as Fazil Nazir Bhat and Irfan Ahmed Malik of Pulwama.

"Incriminating material, arms and ammunition, including two AK-47 rifles and a pistol, have also been recovered," he said.

In a late afternoon encounter, another LeT militant, Adil Parray, was killed in the Kreesbal Palpora area on the outskirts of Srinagar, taking the militant toll for this year to 100.

Report on 50-km BSF jurisdiction limits ready

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A blueprint that defines the extended jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) and its new logistical requirements in frontier States has been prepared and is soon expected to be submitted to the Union Home Ministry, officials said.

While in Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, the BSF jurisdiction, from the border towards the hinterland, was enhanced from the earlier 15 km to 50 km, in Gujarat the same limit has been reduced from 80 km to 50 km, while in Rajasthan the limit has been kept unchanged at 50 km.

Ministry seeks feedback on disability policy

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has invited public feedback till July 9 on the new draft national policy on persons with disabilities (PwD), which proposes interventions in disability prevention, education, healthcare, social security and accessibility.

The draft said the current national programme on prevention of disabilities run by the Health Ministry focused on "traditional causes", but there were other causes of disability, such as malnourishment, medical negligence, socio-cultural factors and impairment caused by disasters.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, also expanded the number of disabilities from seven to 21.

The policy said the States and Union Territories should add a provision on compliance with the RPD Act when granting permission or recognition to educational institutions. A module on disability should be included in MBBS and other medical courses, it said.

To make vehicles more accessible, the policy said: "The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways will issue necessary guidelines for making modification in the personal vehicles being used by persons with disabilities as per requirement."

Feedback and comments on the policy can be sent to *panda.dk@nic.in* and *policy.depwd@gmail.com* by July 9, the draft said.

APPEAL

Baby Kareshlzn is 1 year old suffering from B Cell Acute Lumbhoplastic Leukemia. His family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of Rs. 8,00,000/- to undergo Chemotherapy (3 Years) at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. He needs your blessings and support. Donations sent by ChD.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010083310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, D.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28255324/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Presidential poll: Nadda, Rajnath to reach out to allies, Opposition

They will hold talks with NDA partners, UPA constituents, Independent MPs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday said it had authorised party president J.P. Nadda and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to hold consultations with NDA partners, UPA constituents and Independent MPs with regard to the presidential election scheduled for July 18.

BJP general secretary Arun Singh put out a statement to this effect on Sunday afternoon, adding that the two leaders will be starting the process of consultation very soon.

This comes not just after the Election Commission's announcement of the schedule for the presidential election, but also with West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee writing to leaders of political parties and Chief Ministers for an Opposition meeting at the Constitution Club in New Delhi on June 15, with a view to settling on a common nominee from the Opposition stable. Congress president Sonia Gandhi too had reached out to NCP leader Sharad Pawar for the same.

The BJP is anxious about not just its allies like the JD(U) but also fence-sitting parties like the BJD and the YSRCP.

While the numbers are in favour of the NDA, despite the alliance being in power in fewer States than before, the consultation process in both camps is for larger acceptance of their candidates.

A committee to consult other parties had been set up even in 2017, when President Ram Nath Kovind was elected to the post. At that time, party president Amit Shah had authorised current Vice-President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu (he was Minister for Urban Development then), then Home Minister Rajnath Singh and the late Arun Jaitley (then Finance Minister) to consult various parties.

The BJP is anxious about not just its allies like the Janata Dal(U) but also fence-sitting parties such as the Biju Janata Dal (which had supported Mr. Kovind for President, but not Mr. Naidu as Vice-President) and the YSRCP. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met Bihar Chief Minister and JD (U) chief Nitish Kumar on the issue in May.

Trinamool MP speaks to senior Congress leaders

Mamata's party keen on fielding senior leader for President

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

A day after West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee invited Opposition leaders to attend a meeting in Delhi on June 15 for the upcoming presidential election, Trinamool leader in the Rajya Sabha Derek O'Brien on Sunday reached out to Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal.

Derek O'Brien

Though the details of the discussion are not known, the Trinamool Congress is said to be keen on putting up a senior leader as the Opposition's presidential candidate.

Mr. Kharge has been appointed as the key points person by Congress president Sonia Gandhi to coordinate with Opposition leaders to decide on a common candidate.

Letter to leaders

However, Ms. Banerjee wrote a letter to her counterparts in Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray and M.K. Stalin in Tamil Nadu. She had also written letters to other top Opposition leaders like NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

This prompted Congress communications chief Randeep Surjewala to issue a statement late on Friday to assert that Ms. Gandhi had already spoken to Opposition leaders, including Ms. Banerjee.

"The Congress party is of the opinion that the nation needs a person as the President who can protect the Constitution of our country, our institutions and citizenry from the ongoing onslaught by the ruling party. This is the need of the hour. While the Congress party has not suggested a particular name for the President, we owe it to our people to elect a President, who can apply a healing touch to its fractured social fabric and defend our Constitution," Mr. Surjewala had said in the statement.

Bishnoi blames Congress for selective action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Haryana MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, who was expelled on Saturday from all Congress positions for cross-voting in the Rajya Sabha elections, accused the party of acting "selectively".

In a series of tweets, Mr. Bishnoi said, "Congress also has rules for some leaders and exceptions for others. Rules are applied selectively. Indiscipline has been repeatedly ignored in the past. In my case, I listened to my soul & acted on my morals...."

"Had @incindia acted this swiftly & strongly in 2016 & on every other critical opportunity they've missed, they wouldn't have been in such dire straits," he said.

Mr. Bishnoi was referring to the cancellation of 14 Congress votes during the 2016 Rajya Sabha polls.

Congress plans march as Rahul appears before ED

Leaders across States allege political vendetta by BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day before former Congress president Rahul Gandhi appears before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case, the Congress on Sunday held press conferences in multiple cities to allege political vendetta by the BJP.

On Monday, senior leaders, including the Chief Ministers of Congress-ruled States, are expected to march to the ED office when Mr. Gandhi appears to record his statement in the National Herald case. The State units will also do *satyagraha* in front of the ED offices in their respective States.

The case to investigate alleged financial irregularities in the Congress-promoted Young Indian Private Ltd. that owns National Herald under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) was registered about nine months ago.

Rahul Gandhi

"I speak as a Congress member and an advocate. The ED's summons to Mr. Rahul Gandhi under PMLA is baseless," former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram told the news agency PTI.

Mr. Chidambaram said the offence of money laundering required "money" and "laundering of money" whereas in the *National Herald* case, there was debt-to-equity conversion, something which lending banks do on a regular basis.

"It is like accusing a person of 'purse snatching' when there was no purse and no snatching," he argued.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who will participate in the march to the ED office, told reporters in Raipur that the *National Herald* case was being used to harass the Gandhi family. "The Central government wants to misuse the ED, CBI, Income Tax department to silence the Opposition. We will oppose this," Mr. Baghel said.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow, senior leader Sachin Pilot questioned why the Central probe agencies have never ever investigated any BJP leader.

Other senior leaders such Pawan Khera in Ahmedabad, Vivek Tankha in Raipur, Sanjay Nirupam in Shimla addressed a press conference.

Sonia Gandhi hospitalised for post-COVID issues

She tested positive on June 2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been hospitalised because of COVID-related issues but is stable, the party said on Sunday.

"Congress president, Smt. Sonia Gandhi was admitted to Ganga Ram Hospital today owing to COVID-related issues. She is stable and will be kept at the hospital for observation. We thank all the Congress men & women as also all well-wishers for their concern and good wishes," party's communication chief Randeep Surjewala tweeted.

ED summons

Sources indicated that the Congress chief had visited the hospital for a post-COVID check-up.

Ms. Gandhi, 75, had tested positive for COVID-19 on June 2 and could not appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to record her statement in the *National Herald* case.

Sonia Gandhi

Following Ms. Gandhi's request for more time, the agency asked her to appear on June 23. Both Ms. Gandhi and her son, Rahul Gandhi, have been summoned to record their statements under criminal provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The case to investigate financial irregularities under the PMLA was registered about nine months ago after a trial court took cognisance of an Income Tax Department probe that was carried out on the basis of a private criminal complaint filed by former BJP MP Subramanian Swamy in 2013.

Patidars stage protest against stadium renaming

Issues raised during 2015 agitation remain relevant, they say

A.M. JIGEESH
AHMEDABAD/SURAT

The Patidar trouble for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat is far from over. On Sunday, the leaders of the Patidar Anamat Aandolan Samiti (PAAS) were detained while they were protesting against the renaming of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium as Narendra Modi Stadium.

This is just one among the multiple issues festering between the BJP and the Patidar community, which includes the BJP's stand on the differences among the Swaminarayan sects, the party's difficulty in placating community leader Naresh Patel and the overall crisis facing agriculture and the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sectors controlled by members of this community.

"This agitation will go for long. Changing the name of Patel is like denigrating the history of Indian freedom struggle. The government can name any other stadium in the name of the Prime Minister," said Dharmik Malviya, the convenor of PAAS.

Economic issues

Talking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Malviya said the issues the Patidars raised during the reservation agitation in 2015 still remained relevant. "In fact, the condition of the people in the community has become worse. The use of synthetic diamond and the issues in Russia have impacted the diamond business. The price of raw materials has increased four to five fold," he said.

Traditionally a farming community, the Patidars cultivated cash crops such as cotton, groundnut, tobacco, chickpea and sugarcane and invested the surplus they earned in small and medium industries. "The price of cotton is not enough. The input cost has increased. Government offered to procure chickpea and groundnut from the farms but put limitations for procurement. So farmers had to approach private traders. The system is not functioning properly," Mr. Malviya said.

Hardik's entry

However, the BJP is trying to douse the anger in its own ways. Hardik Patel joining the BJP will have an impact against the critical voice given by Patidar leader Naresh Patel.

But even within the BJP, there is confusion whether Mr. Hardik's entry will benefit the party or not.

"He has been criticising the RSS and BJP leaders all through the agitation and after joining the BJP, I don't know if his entry will bring any benefit. But we can use him to counter Naresh Patel," said a top Sangh Parivar functionary.

BJP sweeps Assam tribal council polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday swept the elections to the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), winning all 26 seats.

The Congress drew a blank with some of its candidates finishing third behind Independents.

The KAAC is made up of 30 members, four of whom are nominated. The elections to the 26 seats were held on June 8. The BJP credited its "historic" performance to its "people-friendly" approach.

"The Congress not only scored zero but failed to put up a contest. We won by a bigger margin of votes in most seats compared to the last time," BJP leader and Minister Pijush Hazarika told presspersons.

Development of villages a priority, says Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday laid stress on the development of villages to achieve the goal of making India a "five trillion dollar economy," a target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said that development of villages is essential for the overall development of the country as majority of Indians live in villages. "I am of the firm belief that development of the country is not possible without the development of its villages."

He was addressing the 41st convocation ceremony of the Institute of Rural Management (IRMA) in Gujarat.

On Sunday, he also dedicated development work and launched new projects in his parliamentary constituency Gandhinagar.

AAP announces new office-bearers in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

Ahead of the Assembly election later this year, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday announced a new organisational structure for Gujarat with over 850 office-bearers.

As part of the reshuffle, the party has elevated Gujarat AAP leader Isudan Gadhvi as the national joint general secretary, while former Congress legislator Indranil Rajguru has been made national joint secretary of the party.

The party has retained Gopal Italia as president of the State unit.

"We have carried out the reshuffle after the *parivartan yatra* that passed through each of the 182 Assembly segments in the State," said Sandeep Pathak, AAP's Gujarat in-charge.

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With 1,803 new cases, surge on in Mumbai

Delhi reports 735 new infections and three deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Maharashtra on Sunday continued to report a steep surge in COVID-19 cases, recording 2,946 new infections. The number of active cases rose to 16,370. The State's case positivity rate rose to 9.73%.

The highest number of cases continued to be reported in Mumbai city, which saw a big case surge of 1,803, taking its total active cases to 10,889.

Delhi reported 735 new cases and three deaths, while the positivity rate increased to 4.35%, according to data shared by the city's Health Department. This is the third consecutive day that Delhi has recorded more than 600 cases and a positivity rate of more than 3%. The capital had on Saturday reported 795 COVID-19 cases with a positivity rate of 4.11% and zero daily deaths.

Earlier, Union Health Ministry data said India logged 8,582 new infections in the 24 hours to 8 a.m. on Sunday. The active cases increased to 44,513, an increase of 4,143 cases. The daily positivity rate was 2.71% and the weekly positivity rate 2.02%, the Ministry said.

Getting ready: As Maharashtra witnesses a rise in cases, the BKC Jumbo COVID Care Centre in Mumbai is functional. • PTI

Two fatalities in Maharashtra took its total death toll since the eruption of the pandemic in March 2020 to 1,47,870. The State has been recording an average 2,500 new cases daily during the past week – its highest surge in more than six months. However, authorities said there was no cause for panic as most cases were akin to mild instances of influenza and were recovering within three or four days. A total of 1,432 patients were discharged.

After Mumbai city, parts of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) such as Thane and Navi Mumbai reported spikes of more than 280 and 240 cases, respectively.

While Pune district reported more than 150 new cases, the rest of western Maharashtra including districts such as Satara, Sangli, Kolhapur and Solapur remained largely unaffected by the fresh surge as did the Marathwada region.

West Bengal reported 123 fresh COVID-19 cases, a State health department bulletin said. The daily positivity rate was 1.6% as the 123 cases were detected out of 7,695 samples tested on the day. The State recorded 139 cases on Saturday.

(With PTI inputs)

After protest, gig workers find work drying up

They say they are facing 'targeted' action with their accounts 'shadow-blocked' or deactivated

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN
NEW DELHI

Women working with Urban Company (UC) who led a weeks-long protest against the firm last year, now say they are facing "targeted" action by either having their accounts "shadow-blocked" or deactivated. This has led to work drying up for them over the past two or three months.

Last December, UC's subscription policy (Flexi scheme) asking service providers to pay a fee for job leads through their app had backfired, leading to over 300 women beauticians and salon service providers launching a sit-in at its Gurugram office.

The company offers a platform connecting service professionals (repair technicians, cleaning and other household service providers) to customers – much like an app-based cab service connects drivers to passengers. And like the ride-hailing apps, UC too refuses to recognise its service professionals as employees.

Reacting to the protests, UC sued the workers in a civil court to stop their agitation.

The Gurugram court found the company's filings "devoid of merits", following which UC withdrew the suit on March 29 this year. But this has not stopped the company from acting against those who protested last year and anyone who continued their association with the women who led the protests, service partners allege.

"March 12 was when I got my last job from the app. Since then, nothing," Seema*, 35, said, adding that she had raised a complaint about this issue at least nine times on the app since then – the last one on May 17. Each of these complaints was marked "resolved"

SPECIAL

within a day, but she got no new jobs.

When she repeatedly asked the company to tell why her account was blocked, "they would say I had poor performance". Seema's latest rating on the app was at 4.6 out of 5 and she had this year received a Silver Plus certificate of achievement from UC signed by Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Abhiraj Bhal himself.

Seema said that after the jobs stopped, she was called for a meeting at the UC office on March 16. "I met my category manager who said I had been blocked for attending the protest last year," she said.

Standing up: Urban Company's employees sitting on a protest in Gurugram in December 2021. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I told them I was there only for one night. I pleaded with them but they said you are admitting to protesting, we can't do anything more," Seema said.

Court notice

Now, Seema has decided to take the company to court and has served a legal notice on it over her "effective termination".

In her legal notice, Seema has named two UC officials who told her that she was blocked from getting jobs because of the protest.

Gunjan (35), who was one of the women initially named by UC in its suit, said she too is facing a similar "shadow-block" – meaning her account is open on the app but she is not getting any jobs.

Seven months pregnant, Gunjan told *The Hindu* that she is desperately looking for work to be able to raise her soon-to-be-born child. She claimed that at least 50-60 women workers, who had protested last year with her, had now been "blocked" from getting any job leads through the application.

Rikta Krishnaswamy of the All India Gig Workers' Union, which has been working with UC workers, said such "targeted action" was being taken against anyone who had been part of the protests last year.

The company had initially named four of the protesting women along with several "unnamed" women in its suit, seeking an injunction to stop the strike outside the office.

The Gurugram court had granted the company's plea and restrained the women from protesting. However, UC then went on to name 10 more women in an annexure, with an application to sue all protesting workers (including the unnamed ones), through the 14 women it had named, in a representative capacity.

Civil Judge (Junior Division) Harsh Kumar Singh found this plea "devoid of merits", noting that "it was incumbent upon the plaintiff to submit/annex the list of all the defendants against whom the suit had been preferred in the representative capacity but it is not so in the appearing circumstances".

Urban Company has not yet responded to multiple requests for a comment.

*(*Name changed)*

Mumbai's POCSO circular on hold

It's sending wrong message: police chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey on Saturday held the circular that mandated permission from a Deputy Commissioner of Police before registering a first information report (FIR) in a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case in abeyance.

Sanjay Pandey

Mr. Pandey told a group of child and women rights activists and lawyers who were aggrieved by the circular issued on June 9 that he has friends who have known cases where children are being misused to settle property disputes. He gave examples of how two brothers were stuck in a property disagreement and there were POCSO cases on both of them by either side.

Talking about the circular that mentioned, "cases of molestation or sexual crimes involving minors should be registered only after recommendation from an officer of the rank of Assistant Commissioner (ACP) and permission from a DCP", he said, the circular is sending a wrong message and that a timeline needs to be added to it.

"I am saying the nod will take about three to four hours, it can be done through a phone call or even a WhatsApp message. If it goes beyond half a day, officers will be held up," he said.

He was attending a virtual meeting organised by Majlis, a non-governmental organisation working to protect and promote rights of women and children. Mr. Pandey said, "I am ready to appoint you (activists and lawyers) as special officers who will take full responsibility in such (POCSO Act) cases and direct the police officers to take the complaint. I assure you that it will be binding on the police." He said he would like to take it up in the 18 days to his retirement.

'Abnormal' dinosaur egg in India

Discovery of 'egg-in-egg' leads to new connection of reptilian and avian evolution

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

A team of researchers from the University of Delhi have discovered a unique set of fossilised dinosaur eggs, with one egg nesting within the other. While eggs-within-eggs are a rare phenomenon, they are so far known to occur only in birds and never known in reptiles. This discovery brings out newer connections between reptilian and avian evolution.

Big find: The site from where the eggs were dug up at Bagh in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The findings, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, talk about the "egg-in-egg" phenomenon in a titanosaurid dinosaur egg found from the Bagh area of Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh.

Dinosaurs of the Sauropod family were among the largest land animals that have ever lived and were widespread millions of years ago in the territory that is now India. Fossils of these animals have been found in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Meghalaya.

The Upper Cretaceous Lameta Formation of Central India is long known for its dinosaur fossils (both skeletal and egg remains), and scientists, some of whom were involved in the team reporting the latest findings, documented 52 titanosaurid sauropod nests near Padlya village close to Bagh town in Madhya Pradesh. One of these nests had 10 eggs, one of which was the "abnormal" egg.

The egg has two continuous and circular eggshell layers separated by a wide gap like that observed in birds. Until this discovery, no egg-in-egg fossil egg was found in dinosaurs and other reptiles such as turtles, lizards, and crocodiles.

It was believed that dinosaurs had a reproductive function similar to that of turtles and other reptiles (unsegmented oviduct) in contrast to segmented reproductive tract of crocodiles and birds with separate regions of membrane and shell deposition.

Though crocodiles have separate regions of shell membrane and mineralised shell deposition, they ovulate and release all the eggs simultaneously like turtles and other reptiles. In birds, ovulation is sequenced and eggs are laid one at a time. "The new discovery of an ovum-in-ovo egg, which characteristic of birds, in titanosaurids argues for a segmented oviduct like in crocodiles and birds, and possible sequential laying of eggs like in birds," the authors aver.

"The finding of ovum-in-ovo egg from a titanosaurid nest opens up the possibility that sauropod dinosaurs had an oviduct morphology similar to those of crocodiles or birds and they may have adapted to a mode of an egg-laying characteristic of birds," said Harsha Dhiman, Department of Geology, University of Delhi, and lead author of the study.

"The new pathological egg is a rare and important find as no ovum-in-ovo egg was found in reptiles until now and as it brings out significant information on whether dinosaurs had a reproductive biology similar to that of turtles and lizards or their immediate cousins crocodiles and birds," said Professor Guntupalli V.R. Prasad from the University of Delhi, who is the corresponding author of the published article.

Another co-author of the paper, Vishal Verma, from Bakaner Higher Secondary School and who works in the conservation of fossil sites and was instrumental in establishing four local museums, said that the "Bagh-Kukshi area holds key to many such wonderful fossil finds provided systematic scientific exploration is carried out as in the present case". The new find highlights the fact that Central and Western India hold great potential for dinosaur fossils which may offer important information on dinosaur diversity, nesting behaviour and reproductive biology, the authors note.

New advisory on Type-1 diabetes

India has highest number of patients

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

From never wearing brand new shoes for a trip, to travelling with flash cards to navigate language barrier, managing meals when crossing time zones, storage of insulin and how to minimise glucose fluctuation – all of these are part of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) pre-travel advice for children and adolescents living with Type-1 diabetes. This is the country's first-ever list of basic dos and don'ts to ensure the safety of Type-1 patients during travel.

India has the highest number of incident and prevalent cases of Type-1 diabetes in the world as per recent estimates from the International Diabetes Federation, and the Council has now published a comprehensive document providing advice on care of diabetes in children, adolescents and adults with Type-1 diabetes.

Type-I diabetes is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin. It typically appears in adolescence and symptoms include increased thirst, frequent urination, hunger, fatigue and blurred vision.

The new 173-page ICMR guideline document states that individuals with Type-1 diabetes need support to survive, using insulin and other therapies, and to live their entire life without stigma, restrictions, or disabling complications due to their illness.

The Council has suggested that patients should inform the physician in advance, preferably four to six weeks before the planned travel, and should have medications and blood testing materials for the whole trip plus reserve supplies for at least two to four weeks if unforeseen circumstances extend the travel.

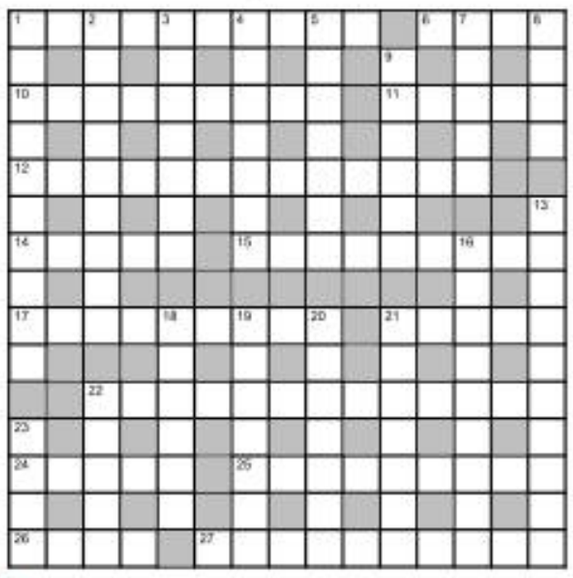
They also advise carrying comfortable shoes and socks to avoid straining the feet while on travel. "Alternating between two pairs of shoes can decrease the risk of blisters and calluses. New shoes, if purchased, should be used for at least two to three weeks before travel. Patients with a medical identification bracelet should have information on the disease, use of insulin, and disclose any allergies," the council said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13581

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



ACROSS

1 Stuntmen dead, livers sad... (10)
6 ...old boys in tears from the beginning in memorial service (4)
10 Smith perhaps, forging arsenal outside a corner (9)
11 Girl prompted to go behind opening and eyed (5)
12 Abbr? Yes (13)
14 Quiet male replaced by lady that's awful (5)
15 Depot's split rent allowance (9)
17 Injured blondes outside emergency exit (entrance maybe) with a condition (9)
21 Eastern accountants primarily hate this form of money (1-4)
22 Is this what it is? (9,4)
24 Brat says "Good morning, a new beginning" (5)
25 Indispensable old boy got bail furnished (9)
26 Snatch animal tied around pole (4)
27 Southern side, across river enables small watercourses (10)

DOWN

1 Fail to attract a thin boy in the front (4,1,5)
2 Small vehicles outran bus strangely (9)
3 Church office is free and easy, not safe somehow (7)
4 Songbirds change, that is significant to begin with (7)
5 So? Let's be outside hotel, round the country (7)
7 Neglecting the last, bold use of single dose... (5)
8 ...three times a day by end of day – Order (4)
9 Gloomy again, outside the windows, say (6)
13 Morning, I hop in bus – noon get out – like a frog (10)
16 Usually get orange juice across the road (2,7)
18 Fighting first bout with a beast in Germany (6)
19 Fish & Fish – quite set (7)
20 Doctor can add some betadine and make it wet (7)
21 You are heartless; smile. It can become Shangri La, perhaps (7)
22 Manager gets a direct message to be at home (5)
23 Pug lying inside is dangerous (4)

SUDOKU

	8	3	4			5	1	
	6		3				9	
1								
		1		3		9	7	
			1	6	7			
	5	8		2		1		
								9
	3				8		5	
	2	4			9	7	3	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13580

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	2	7	3	4	9	1	8
7	3	9	6	8	1	2	4	5
8	4	1	9	2	5	7	3	6
2	9	6	3	4	7	8	5	1
1	7	3	8	5	9	6	2	4
4	8	5	2	1	6	3	9	7
9	1	7	4	6	3	5	8	2
5	6	8	1	9	2	4	7	3
3	2	4	5	7	8	1	6	9

FAITH

Essence of simplicity

A great thinker and philosopher, Tiruvalluvar's concept of God is not related to any religious conviction or creed. In fact, a search for the meaning of God in the Tirukkural is likely to lead each eager reader to draw his own conclusion from whatever has been said on this issue by the poet, pointed out Sri Nallur Sa Saravanan in a discourse.

The first set of ten verses are dedicated to God, herein His incomparable and infinite nature are aptly indicated in the term 'en gunathan.' Many explain 'en guna' as the eight basic gunas or attributes of God spoken of in the agama sastra. Or it is explained on the basis of the broad classification of human nature into the three categories, satva, rajas and tamas. But, considering the antiquity of the text, the ideal approach should factor the social and linguistic context of the author's time and era. Since this text lays emphasis on virtuous and righteous living, the author discusses 'gunam,' virtue, 'anbu,' values, 'anbu,' love, 'ozhukkam,' righteousness, and such allied topics in depth.

In these instances, the term 'en' is used to convey the sense of simplicity, modesty, humility, and so on. On this basis, 'gunam' can be understood as that which is manifest as action guided by one's inherent knowledge of right and wrong. We know from experience that wrong behaviour and mistakes will only bring sorrow in one's life. Traditional values such as respect to elders, are found in various sections of the text. Whatever may be one's state in life, his vocation, family background, scholarship, and so on, it is modesty and simplicity that add excellence to a human being. The poet shows that the nature or dharma of the Supreme God is His infinite noble values, especially simplicity, a virtue that becomes evident as His accessibility and compassion.

U.S. trying to 'hijack' support in Asia: China

Defence Minister accuses Washington of advancing its own interests 'under the guise of multilateralism'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SINGAPORE

China's Defence Minister accused the United States on Sunday of trying to "hijack" the support of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to turn them against Beijing, saying Washington is seeking to advance its own interests "under the guise of multilateralism."

Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe lashed out at U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin, rejecting his "smearing accusation" the day before at the Shangri-La Dialogue that China was causing instability with its claim to the self-governing island of Taiwan and its increased military activity in the area.

Mr. Austin had stressed the need for multilateral partnerships with nations in the Indo-Pacific, which Mr. Wei suggested was an attempt to back China into a corner.

"No country should impose its will on others or bully others under the guise of multilateralism," he said.

Critical phase: Chinese Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe at the 19th Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. •REUTERS

"The strategy is an attempt to build an exclusive small group in the name of a free and open Indo-Pacific to hijack countries in our region and target one specific country – it is a strategy to create conflict and confrontation to contain and encircle others."

China has been rapidly modernising its military and seeking to expand its influence and ambitions in the region, recently signing a security agreement with the Solomon Islands that many fear could lead to a Chinese naval base in the Pacific, and breaking ground this past week on a naval port expansion project in Cambodia that could give Beijing a foothold in the Gulf of Thailand.

Last year, U.S. officials accused China of testing a hypersonic missile, a weapon harder for missile defense systems to counter, but China insisted it had been a "routine test of a spacecraft."

'Hypersonic' missile

Answering a question about the test on Sunday, Mr. Wei came the closest so far to acknowledging it was, indeed, a hypersonic missile, saying, "As for hypersonic weapons, many countries are developing weapons and I think there's no surprise that China is doing so."

"China will develop its military," he added. "I think it's natural."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken last month said China represented the "most serious long-term challenge to the international order" for the United States, with its claims to Taiwan and efforts to dominate the strategic South China Sea.

The U.S. and its allies have responded with so-called freedom of navigation patrols in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait, sometimes encountering a push-back from China's military.

Mr. Wei accused the U.S. of "meddling in the affairs of our region" with the patrols, and "flexing the muscles by sending warships and warplanes on a rampage in the South China Sea."

China has squared off with the Philippines and Vietnam, among others, over maritime claims and Mr. Wei said it was up to the countries in the region to find their own solutions.

On Sunday, Mr. Wei met with Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles, which the Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported was the first high-level meeting between the two countries in more than two years.

Russia strikes Ukraine depot; battle for Severodonetsk rages

Its rare attack in the west of country leaves 22 injured

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KRAMATORSK

Russian forces said on Sunday they had struck a site in western Ukraine storing large amounts of weapons supplied by the United States and European countries, as the battle intensified for the key eastern city of Severodonetsk.

The strike on the town of Chortkiv left 22 people injured, the regional Governor said. It was a rare attack in western Ukraine, with the east and south of the country having borne the brunt of Russian firepower.

Meanwhile the situation in Severodonetsk was "extremely difficult", after the Russian army destroyed a second bridge into the city and was heavily bombarding the last one, regional governor Sergiy Gaiday said.

EU chief visits Kyiv

Away from the battlefield, the head of the European Commission on Saturday promised it would provide a clear signal by the end of next week on Ukraine's bid to become a candidate to join the European Union.

"Ukraine has achieved a lot in the past ten years and much still needs to be done. Our opinion will reflect this carefully," Ursula von der Leyen said after a surprise trip to the capital Kyiv.

Despite reservations among some member states, EU leaders are expected to approve the bid at a summit later this month, although with strict conditions attached.

"The challenge will be to come out of the (EU) council with a united position, which reflects the enormity of these historic decisions," von der Leyen said as she travelled back to Poland.

Clearing hurdles: Russian sappers removing mines along the coast of Mariupol on Sunday. •AFP

Ukraine's geopolitical vulnerability has been laid bare by Russia's February 24 invasion, which has killed thousands, sent millions fleeing and reduced swathes of the country to rubble.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Saturday that it was a "decisive time".

"Russia wants to ruin European unity, wants to leave Europe divided and wants to leave it weak. The entirety of Europe is a target for Russia. Ukraine is only the first stage in this aggression," he said.

The United States and EU have sent weapons and cash to help Ukraine fend off the Russian advance, alongside punishing Moscow with unprecedented economic sanctions.

Russia's Defence Ministry said the strike on Chortkiv destroyed a "large depot of anti-tank missile systems, portable air defence systems and shells provided to the Kyiv regime by the US and European countries".

Regional governor Volodymyr Trush said that four missiles fired from the Black Sea had partially destroyed a military installation in the town, about 140 km from the border with Romania, on Saturday evening.

Residential buildings were also damaged and 22 people were hurt, all of them – including seven women and a 12-year-old – taken to hospital, he said in a Facebook post.

The cities of Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, which are separated by a river, have been targeted for weeks as the last areas still under Ukrainian control in the region of Lugansk.

"The situation in Severodonetsk is extremely difficult," said Luhansk Governor Gaiday on Sunday, adding that by attacking the bridges, Russian forces wanted to cut off the city completely.

"Most likely, today or tomorrow, they will throw all reserves to capture the city and also possibly in other directions to cut and fully control the road" southwest to Bakhmut.

Chemical plant hit

Mr. Gaiday said the Azot chemical plant in Severodonetsk was being shelled, with fighting going on around the area.

About 800 civilians have taken refuge in the plant's bunkers.

WTO chief sees 'bumpy' road as Ministers chalk out deals

War-driven food crisis and fertilizer shortage on the agenda

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA

The head of the World Trade Organisation predicted a "bumpy and rocky" road as the trade body opened its highest-level meeting after over four years on Sunday, with issues like pandemic preparedness, food insecurity against the backdrop of Russia's war in Ukraine and overfishing of the world's seas on the agenda.

At a time when some experts question WTO's future and relevance, Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala hopes the meeting involving more than 120 Ministers from 164 member countries yields progress toward reducing inequality and ensuring fair and free trade.

Ms. Okonjo-Iweala acknowledged the Geneva-based trade body needs reform, "The road will be bumpy and rocky. There may be a few landmines on the way," she said on Sunday before the opening of the four-day meeting.

"We'll have to navigate those landmines and see how we can successfully land one or two deliverables."

She pointed to the food emergency caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, where blockaded ports have impeded exports of between 22 million to 25 million tons of grain from a key European breadbasket.

Ministers will consider whether to commit to lifting or easing export restrictions on food to help alleviate pressures on countries facing a shortage of wheat, fertilizer and other products because of the war.

Sri Lanka open to buying oil from Russia, says PM

'Willing to accept more Chinese help'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka may be compelled to buy more oil from Russia as the island nation hunts desperately for fuel amid an unprecedented economic crisis, the newly appointed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said.

Mr. Wickremesinghe said he would first look to other sources but would be open to buying more crude from Moscow.

Western nations largely have cut off energy imports from Russia in line with sanctions imposed over invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Wickremesinghe also indicated he would be willing to accept more financial help from China, despite his country's mounting debt.

And while he acknowledged that Sri Lanka's current predicament is "its own making", he said the war in Ukraine is making it even worse – and that dire food shortages could continue until 2024. He said Russia had also offered wheat to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has amassed $51 billion in foreign debt, but has suspended repayment of nearly $7 billion due this year.

U.S. Senators reach bipartisan deal on gun safety measures

Focus on improved school safety, mental health programmes

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Senate bargainers announced a bipartisan framework on Sunday responding to last month's mass shootings, a modest breakthrough offering measured gun curbs and bolstered efforts to improve school safety and mental health programmes.

The proposal falls far short of tougher steps long sought by President Joe Biden and many Democrats. Even so, if the accord leads to the enactment of legislation, it would signal a turnabout from years of gun massacres that have yielded little but stalemate in Congress.

Republican support

In a significant development, 20 Senators, including 10 Republicans, released a statement calling for passage. That is potentially crucial because the biggest obstacle to enacting the measure is probably in the 50-50 Senate, where at least 10 GOP votes will be needed to attain the usual 60-vote threshold for approval.

Thousands of gun control advocates at a rally near the Washington Monument. •AFP

"Families are scared, and it is our duty to come together and get something done that will help restore their sense of safety and security in their communities," the lawmakers said.

The compromise would make the juvenile records of gun buyers under age 21 available when they undergo background checks. The suspects who killed 10 people at a grocery store in Buffalo and 19 students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde were both 18.

The deal would offer money to States to implement "red flag" laws that make it easier to temporarily take guns from people considered potentially violent, and to bolster school safety and mental health programs.

Leaders now hope to push any agreement into law as quickly as possible.

Women diners assaulted in China, 9 held

ASSOCIATED PRESS
HONG KONG

Chinese authorities arrested nine people on suspicion of violently assaulting several women at a restaurant after surveillance footage of the attack sparked widespread outrage.

Footage from a restaurant in Tangshan in Hebei province, on Friday, showed one of the men approaching a table where four women were seated and placing his hand on a woman's back. She rebuffed him before he flew into a rage and slapped her, prompting her to fight back. A brawl ensued, with a group of men entering the restaurant and brutally attacking the woman and her dining partners.

The assault and the public outcry renewed a conversation about misogyny and mistreatment of women in China.

France votes in crucial test for Macron

President seeks to secure absolute majority as leftist coalition mounts challenge

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS

French voters are choosing lawmakers in a parliamentary election on Sunday as President Emmanuel Macron seeks to secure his majority while under growing threat from a leftist coalition.

More than 6,000 candidates, ranging in age from 18 to 92, are running for 577 seats in the National Assembly in the first round of the election. Those who receive the most votes will advance to the decisive second round on June 19.

While candidates have sought to address consumer concerns about inflation, which was a key campaign issue, voter enthusiasm has been generally low. That was reflected in Sunday's early turnout figures, which showed just 18% of France's 48.7 million voters had cast ballots by noon.

Hard-left leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon, who hopes the election may vault him to the Prime Minister's post, was among only a trickle of voters as he cast his ballot in a diverse neighborhood of Marseille, a southern port city.

On France's opposite coast, a small crowd gathered to watch Mr. Macron arrive to vote in the English Channel resort town of Le Touquet.

Following Mr. Macron's reelection in May, his centrist coalition is seeking an absolute majority that would enable it to implement his campaign promises, which include tax cuts and raising the retirement age from 62 to 65.

Emmanuel Macron outside a polling station in Le Touquet, on Sunday. •REUTERS

But the latest opinion polls suggest Mr. Macron and his allies may have trouble winning over half of the parliamentary seats. A government with a large, but not absolute majority would still be able to rule, but only by bargaining with legislators.

Challenge from leftists

The main opposition force appears to be Mr. Mélenchon's newly-created coalition made up of leftists, greens and communists. The coalition's platform includes a significant minimum wage increase, lowering the retirement age to 60 and locking in energy prices.

Mr. Mélenchon, an anti-globalisation firebrand who has called for France to pull out of NATO and "disobey" EU rules, urging voters to give his coalition a majority and thereby force Mr. Macron to name him as prime minister, which would prompt a situation called "cohabitation."

THE HINDU
on Sunday
IN SCHOOL
THE HINDU GROUP
AN EXCLUSIVE WEEKENDER FOR CHILDREN
ENVIRONMENT SPECIAL
"THINK GREEN: START TODAY, SAVE TOMORROW."
Eco-warriors
Fun activities
Forest bathing
The 3 Rs to conserve resources
Calculate your carbon footprint
RELEASING 26th JUNE 2022
The A to Z of the environment
Food choices that impact the environment
Environment Quotient
Pollution Perils
Sacred groves
Collector's Edition @ ₹25 ONLY
PRE-BOOK YOUR COPY WITH YOUR NEWSAGENT TODAY
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To Subscribe visit www.thehindu.com/thseweekend | Call us at 1800 102 1878
For bluk bookings, email us at reach.inschool@thehindu.co.in
*Terms & Conditions apply

ASK US

AARATI KRISHNAN

Q. My wife and I both are 31 years old and currently working as teachers with the State government with a salary of ₹50,000 each in hand. For last five years we have invested about ₹1 lakh a year in NSC for the section 80(C) rebate. In the last year we have started investing in mutual funds and in the share market and found that the returns are far better than NSC's. We are running a recurring deposit of ₹5,000 each in the post office for three years and an SIP of ₹2,000 each in blue chip funds for the last one year. We have accumulated an emergency fund equal to 3 to 4 months of expenditure. We both have an LIC policy and a health insurance plan and have opted for NPS. My question is that as my NSCs will be maturing from this year, should I invest all maturity amount in ELSS funds or would you prescribe any other avenue? Our main goal is to accumulate a fund for our daughter's higher education. She is currently a year old. We also want to purchase a house in about 7 to 10 years' time.

SHASHWAT DIXIT

A. You already have the building blocks of a good investment plan in place, with an emergency fund, life and health insurance policies, tax saving investments and both debt and equity investments. You also seem to have clearly mapped your goals in the form of your daughter's education and your home purchase. However, we do have a few suggestions on your plan.

Try to build up a slightly larger emergency fund equal to 6 months' expenses, as 3-4 months' expenses may be inadequate. Do keep this invested in bank FDs that can be broken quickly so that you can get access to immediate cash in case of need.

Ensure that your life insurance cover rises with your income levels. Its main purpose is to shield your family from a financial emergency in case of an unfortunate event happening to you or your wife. Increase your health insurance cover too as you both age.

In any good financial plan, it is good to start with definite goals and also work to a predetermined asset allocation. Asset allocation is essentially the process of dividing your investments between safe and risky vehicles so that if the risky vehicle fails you at a crucial time or is volatile, the part of your portfolio that is in safe investments will still keep your capital protected. Therefore, we would not suggest investing all your money in equity mutual funds or share markets, because they are currently giving better returns than NSC. In a year where the stock market crashes or is volatile, you can lose your principal value in shares or equity funds. But your NSC will keep your investments safe and continue to provide steady returns.

For your daughter's education goal which is more than 15 years away, you can explore a 70-30 allocation between equity funds and debt instruments. First, use a child's education calculator available on many websites, to estimate how much money you would need by the time your daughter turns 17 or 18, to fund her college education, after adjusting for inflation. For instance, if you think her higher education would cost ₹15 lakh at today's prices, this would amount to about ₹47 lakh, 17 years later at 7% annual inflation. An investment of about ₹10,200 per month earning a return of 9% per annum, can take you to that goal in 17 years' time. Now you can choose to invest about ₹7,100 a month in equity funds and about ₹3,100 in debt options. Instead of direct investments in shares we suggest you invest in index funds such as a Nifty100 Index fund for the equity portion. For the debt portion you can use PPF, NSC and short term debt mutual funds that invest in high quality bonds.

For your home purchase goal, which you plan in 7-10 years' time, you can adopt a more conservative allocation of 50-50 in equity and debt. Online calculators can help you arrive at the inflation adjusted value of your down payment.

Besides these you should also be saving towards other goals such as your retirement, where you should opt for a balanced asset allocation.

Add spice to your portfolio

Consider sector and thematic equity funds that could give your returns a leg up, but don't ignore the risks

BHAVANA ACHARYA

What can add a dash of spice to your mutual fund portfolio? A call on a fund that can soar well above your other funds, giving your returns a good leg up? Of course.

Sector and thematic equity funds fit this bill. IT funds, for example, returned in excess of 100% between 2020 and 2021!

But as tempting as returns may be, sector and thematic funds need to be used carefully in your portfolio. That's because while their return potential is high, so is their risk. The tenets you may use for other equity funds don't apply here either. Here's more.

Know the difference

Sector and thematic funds form a category under equity funds. This is a very big umbrella that houses a great variety of funds. Therefore, the first step in using these funds is to understand what type they are, helps grasp the nature of risk you will be taking.

The riskiest type of fund within this category is pure sector funds, or funds that focus on a single sector. This could be financial services, IT, or pharmaceuticals, for example. Next come thematic funds, which are broader in scope than sector funds. Thematic funds are built to fit a particular theme such as consumption, manufacturing, infrastructure and so on.

Themes comprise multiple sectors. Consumption, for example, can range from FMCG to retailers to durables to paints and so on. The final type of fund is one that is akin to normal diversified equity funds.

These are funds where the theme is extremely general, allowing them to cover a wide variety of sectors. Examples here include ESG, opportunities, or business cycles.

Where's the risk?

Sector and thematic funds are the highest risk in equity funds and choosing them is also equally tricky. This is where your approach to the funds will differ from normal equity funds. One, sectors and themes fall in and out of market favour. Getting into the sector at the right time is essential to allow you to gain those top-rung returns. It doesn't stop there. You also need to exit the sector at the right time to pocket those gains.

Once a sector is no longer fancied, returns can collapse. In other equity funds, you don't have to worry about sector movement and timing your investments as the fund itself will rotate allocations based on potential.

Two, a buy-and-hold long-term strategy does not work with sector or thematic funds. Once a theme moves out of market favour and returns decline, it is not necessary that markets pick it up again. Returns may come back in another market cycle or may not come in at all. Simply holding on to the fund for years on end will not help you recoup lost ground. This is unlike other equity funds where holding through a performance slump can pay off if the fund course-corrects.

Three, picking sector funds is tough. Folks tend to be attracted by high returns in a sector fund and then invest in it. On the contrary, that's when the sector has already delivered much of its return and may have very little potential left! Entering sectors and themes is better done when returns are down, which allows you to ride the theme well.

And this calls for a firm understanding of markets, sectors, and trends. Choosing the wrong themes or sectors can weigh returns down instead of spicing them up.

How to use

For all these reasons, sector or themed funds need to be used carefully. So, first answer the question as to whether you need sector funds at all, no matter how attractive the returns may be!

While a theme or sector may do very well, in some market cycles, you can earn strong returns even through small-cap or mid-cap funds. If your portfolio is already well-diversified and you do not have market knowledge or advisers to identify the right sector at the right time, skip sector funds.

Also forgo these funds if your portfolio size is smaller. The usual mix of funds spanning market cap segments and investment styles provide sufficient diversification and return potential. More, wrong sector calls can hurt much more when your portfolio is smaller.

Otherwise, there are two ways to include thematic or sector funds. One is to simply improve portfolio diversification.

Here, look for broad thematic funds that pick stocks in a manner that your other funds may not – such as ESG, or opportunities, or MNC. Such an approach may suit moderate risk investors or those who don't have in-depth market knowledge.

The other is to focus on specific sectors and narrower themes in order to cash in on outsized returns. This calls for a very hands-on approach, where you will need to churn the sector funds based on opportunities.

Since this involves very high risk, it is best that the rest of your portfolio is in more moderate risk funds. You also need to be a seasoned investor in order to adopt this approach.

In general, though, don't go overboard on sector funds. The bulk of your portfolio should be towards diversified equity and debt funds. Measured allocations to sector funds will both help boost returns and keep a lid on risks.

When you pick funds, don't chase only those with high recent 1-year returns, but consider the full list of funds. This is why knowing which theme can find market favour is important! Look at fund portfolios to know their approach to the sector and which help you understand if it's well-placed to ride the theme.

A long track record is not an essential, but where you do have fund history, use it to know how the fund delivered during an upswing and how it manages over time.

(The writer is co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

POLICY JARGON

'Comprehensive' policy, an oxymoron in insurance parlance?

Technical terms in insurance often say one thing, but mean something different

K. NITYA KALYANI

Nothing is as good as it sounds, and nothing is as bad as it sounds either, say the wise ones. In many instances, this holds good for insurance as well, with this financial product being particularly opaque and misunderstood.

The product is basically a legal contract promising an intangible benefit at a future date should a specified event take place. So, the layer upon layer of puzzlement induced by it is only to be expected.

Fine print

It is often said in the context of insurance, that the big print giveth and the small print taketh away. Let us look at some of the big and small print that is somewhat misleading and confounding. Here is a term that sounds bad in insurance, but isn't.

While risk is bad, in insurance the word refers to something that is covered. So that is good, right?

A life policy covers the risk of dying too soon, a pension policy covers the risk of living too long. Fire policies cover fire and allied perils, while hospitalisation policies cover the costs of hospitalisation. Since insurance presents the solution to managing risk, it has a positive connotation.

'All-risk' policy

Here is a related term that sounds good, but doesn't add up in practice.

The all-risk policy, typically covering construction and also fire and allied perils for large industrial projects, has a misleading name. Its breadth of cover is that it includes those risks not specifically excluded in the contract and, by that logic, standard exclusions like 'act of god' (an unforeseen catastrophe like flood, earthquake or storm which can't be prevented or controlled by human beings), war or nuclear explosion are not part of the coverage and so, no, it does not cover everything under the sun, which is what we wish all insurance policies would do!

Communication is everything, as is presentation, and insurers have been trying to replace this term that puts the coverage in context. Alternative terms being used include multiple peril (meaning not all) and multiple physical risks (meaning not liability).

Easier said than done, because when it comes to a legal conflict, it is the lawyers and judges who have to be convinced.

Conditions apply: It is often said in the context of insurance, that the big print giveth and the small print taketh away. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Comprehensive policy

No. This one doesn't cover everything under the sun either! Take your motor comprehensive policy. It means it's a combination of the statutory third-party liability cover and the optional own damage cover. While the former is a complete cover as required by the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the latter covers damage or loss of your car due to fire, floods and related perils, and also theft.

The bottom line is, if you do prefer a claim, will you get the full value of the damaged vehicle or damaged parts? Shouldn't that be the meaning of comprehensive? No. Depreciation will apply and cost of rubber parts are not partly or fully covered. The silver lining is that you can cover these by paying additional premium, but obviously not after, an accident.

'Not comprehensive'

Many policies have a compulsory deductible, a flat sum or percentage of each claim that you should pay out of your pocket. Decidedly not comprehensive!

Check your motor policy and you will find the sum insured is called Insured Declared Value (DV). In other words, the value for which your vehicle is insured is agreed upon at the time of insurance.

It may indicate that the value was declared by you, the insured, but in reality, the insurance company tells you the value of the model and make of your vehicle from a depreciation chart it has.

Even then, at the time of a claim, further depreciation for that year or part of the year will be applied and you will rarely get the full insured value of the whole car in case of a total loss or damaged parts in case of damage.

So, the IDV is only the maximum value payable and depreciation goes on ticking, somewhat like the writing hand that keeps moving on.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Q. I am a government servant and have an NPS tier 1 account as per government norms. What are your comments on opening a tier 2 account? Is it a safer option when compared with other investments options like mutual funds, FDs or post office RDs?

AJIN KRISHNAN

A. The main difference between NPS tier 1 and tier 2 accounts is that while the tier 1 account is a mandatory account for your retirement savings, tier 2 is wholly voluntary. Tier 1 account investments are also eligible for section 80C benefits while the tier 2 account offers no tax breaks. However, the withdrawal restrictions that apply to the tier 1 account don't apply to the tier 2 account. You can invest and withdraw at any time of your choice like with mutual funds. Your investments in NPS tier 2 go into market instruments of your choice like equity shares, corporate bonds and government securities. So, unlike your FD or post office schemes, your investment will be subject to market risks. There is no capital protection and both your returns and principal value can fluctuate over the years. You should consider NPS tier 2 if you are comfortable with volatile returns in the short run to invest towards long-term goals that are 10 plus years away.

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Upto 2.5% (Max Rs 25,000)
Citibank	9.99-16.49	10,621-12,290	2,124-2,458	Upto 3%
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Upto 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	9.15-16.50	10,2416-12,292	2,083-2,458	2% (Min Rs 1,000 and Max Rs 10,000)
Bank of India	9.75-12.75	10,562-11,313	2,112-2,263	Up to 1% (Rs 750-Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.60-14.30	10,772-11,712	2,154-2,342	Upto 1%
Punjab National Bank	8.80-15.35	10,331-11,987	2,066-2,397	Up to 1%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Upto 3%
Bajaj Finserv	13.00 onwards	11,377 onwards	2,275 onwards	Upto 4%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.90-11.90	10,599-11,097	2,,120-2,219	Upto 1%
South Indian Bank	10.75-18.50	10,809-12,833	2,162-2,567	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	10.95-11.20	10,859-10,921	2,172-2,184	Upto 1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.00-11.00	10,623-10,871	2,124-2174	Upto 0.75%
Karnataka Bank	12.00-17.00	11,122-12,426	2,224-2,485	Up to 2% (Max Rs 8,500)

NEW CAR LOAN-RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure-5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
Union Bank of India	7.20-8.40	9,948-10,234	Rs. 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.55-8.35	10,031-10,222	0.25% (Rs 1,000-1,500)
Bank of Baroda	7.90-11.20	10,114-10,921	0.50% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	7.70-10.30	10,067-10,697	0.25% (Rs 1,000-5,000)
Bank of India	7.25-8.95	9,960-10,367	waived off till 30th June 2022
State Bank of India*	7.25-8.15	9,960-10,174	NIL
Bank of Maharashtra**	7.20-10.70	9,948-10,797	waived off till 30th June 2022
Indian Overseas Bank	7.55	10,031	0.5% - 0.6% (Rs 500-Rs 10,000)
ICICI Bank	7.35-8.50	9,983-10,258	Rs 5,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	7.95-8.30	10,126-10,210	0.5% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.19-10.24	10,184-10,683	0.5% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.10-9.20	10,162-10,428	Up to 1.25%
Federal Bank	9.40	10,477	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Axis Bank	7.85-14.50	10,102-11,764	Rs 3,500-Rs 5,500
South Indian Bank	9.55-11.00	10,513-10,871	1% (Max: Rs. 10,000)
City Union Bank	12.25-12.75	11,185-11,313	1% (Min: Rs 250)

*Further interest rate concession of 0.20% on purchase of electric vehicle(Green Car Loan)

**0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder.

0.05% concession on interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR

Rates and charges as on June 9 — Source: Paisabazaar.com

India wilts under the Klaasen blitz on a tricky wicket

The South African, in the company of Bavuma, resurrects the innings from a precarious 29 for three before launching into the host attack

SA IN INDIA

Y.B. SARANGI
CUTTACK

Wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen excelled on a tricky pitch in humid conditions to make his career-best score and take South Africa to a four-wicket victory in the second T20I against India at the Barabati Stadium on Sunday.

Klaasen, who replaced the injured Quinton de Kock, hammered a 46-ball 81 with seven fours and five mighty sixes as South Africa recovered from 29 for three to chase down 149 with 10 balls to spare and take a 2-0 lead in the series.

Tight spot

After restricting India to 148 for six, South Africa found itself in a tight spot.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar mixed his superb skills with immaculate precision to bowl three of the first six overs and claimed three top-order wickets to leave the visitors in big trouble in the PowerPlay.

The experienced Bhuvneshwar moved the ball both ways and bowled Reeza Hendricks with an incoming delivery in the first over.

His slower delivery forced pinch-hitter Dwaine Pretorius to mistime a skier to deep mid-wicket in his second over. Bhuvneshwar then changed ends to breach Rassie van der Dussen's defence in his third over.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma (35, 30b, 4x4, 1x6) took some calculated risks to break the shackles.

Klaasen, known for tormenting India in the past, relied on his clean-hitting and smart shot selection to revive the innings with Bavuma. He punished Hardik Pandya and Axar Patel as 13 runs came in the 11th over and 19 in the 12th.

Yuzvendra Chahal broke the 64-run stand when Bavuma failed to connect a pull shot. However, the well-built Klaasen continued to unleash his strokes and took his team close to the target before holing out off Harshal Patel.

Earlier, the South African bowlers adapted to the conditions well and executed their plan to perfection.

Calling the shots: Klaasen's 46-ball 81 decisively swung the match South Africa's way. •BISWARANJAN ROUT

They bowled as a unit and mixed the length and pace nicely. India lost opener Ruturaj Gaikwad to Kagiso Rabada in the first over.

Ishan Kishan (34, 21b, 2x4, 3x6) continued his good form, contributing 29 predominantly through sixes off pulls, as India made 42 in the PowerPlay.

Kishan, who was dropped on 28, could not build on his start as he pulled a short ball from Anrich Nortje to deep mid-wicket. Though Pant and vice-captain Hardik fell cheaply, Shreyas Iyer (40, 35b, 2x4, 2x6) worked the ball around and kept the scoreboard ticking before he was dismissed by Pretorius.

The experienced finisher, Dinesh Karthik (30 n.o., 21b, 2x4, 2x6), clubbed Nortje for two fours in the 19th over and Pretorius for two sixes in the final over which produced 18. It wasn't enough once Klaasen got into the act.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Ruturaj Gaikwad c Maharaj b Rabada 1 *(4b)*, Ishan Kishan c van der Dussen b Nortje 34 *(21b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Klaasen b Pretorius 40 *(35b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Rishabh Pant c van der Dussen b Maharaj 5 *(7b)*, Hardik Pandya b Parnell 9 *(12b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel b Nortje 10 *(11b, 1x4)*, Dinesh Karthik (not out) 30 *(21b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Harshal Patel (not out) 12 *(9b, 2x4)*; Extras: (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 148.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-3 (Ruturaj, 0.5 ov), 2-48 (Kishan, 6.4), 3-68 (Pant, 9.1), 4-90 (Hardik, 12.4), 5-98 (Shreyas, 13.5), 6-112 (Axar, 16.6).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Rabada 4-0-15-1, Parnell 4-0-23-1, Nortje 4-0-36-2, Pretorius 4-0-40-1, Shamsi 2-0-21-0, Maharaj 2-0-12-1.

SOUTH AFRICA

Temba Bavuma b Chahal 35 *(30b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Reeza Hendricks b Bhuvneshwar 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Dwaine Pretorius c Avesh b Bhuvneshwar 4 *(5b, 1x4)*, Rassie van der Dussen b Bhuvneshwar 1 *(7b)*, Heinrich Klaasen c sub (Bishnoi) b Harshal 81 *(46b, 7x4, 5x6)*, David Miller (not out) 20 *(15b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Wayne Parnell b Bhuvneshwar 1 *(4b)*, Kagiso Rabada (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (for six wkts. in 18.2 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-5 (Hendricks, 0.6), 2-13 (Pretorius, 2.5), 3-29 (van der Dussen, 5.3), 4-93 (Bavuma, 12.2), 5-144 (Klaasen, 16.6), 6-147 (Parnell, 17.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-13-4, Avesh 3-0-17-0, Hardik 3-0-31-0, Chahal 4-0-49-1, Harshal 3-0-17-1, Axar 1-0-19-0, Shreyas 0.2-0-2-0.

Toss: South Africa.

South Africa won by four wkts. with 10 balls to spare and took a 2-0 lead in five-match series.

Third T20I: June 14, Visakhapatnam, 7 p.m.

Avani clinches second gold

Avani... striking gold again. •FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Young Paralympic champion Avani Lekhara continued her rich vein of form to clinch her second gold medal at the ongoing Chateauroux 2022 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in France on Saturday.

Lekhara shot 458.3 in the R8 - Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1 finals to take the gold ahead of experienced Paralympic stars Veronica Vadovicova (456.6) of Slovakia and Sweden's Anna Normann (441.9). Vadovicova and Normann took the silver and bronze respectively.

IPL media rights: BCCI assured of a revenue over ₹43,000 crore

AMOL KARHADKAR
BENGALURU

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is set to be richer than at least ₹43,050 crore through media rights for the Indian Premier League's (IPL) media rights for the next five editions.

At the end of the first day's proceedings of the IPL media rights e-auction, the last bid for TV and digital rights package for India stood at ₹57 crore and ₹48 crore per game, respectively. With the next IPL rights cycle set to feature 410 games, the assured revenue has already crossed ₹43,000-crore.

The two categories will continue for another round on Monday. Once each of the two categories has a winner, the TV rights for rest of the world and non-exclusive digital rights will be bid for.

While the BCCI will not issue a formal statement until all the proceedings conclude, multiple sources confirmed *The Hindu* that the "four major major" players continued to persist with loosening their purses during the seven-hour proceedings on day one. The major contenders are Disney, Viacom 18, Zee and Sony Group.

For the five-year cycle between 2018 and 2022, each IPL game fetched the BCCI ₹54.5 per game.

Pope, Root hit tons as England returns favour

Driving force: Pope essays an elegant shot in England's fitting riposte to the Kiwis' big total. •GETTY IMAGES

NZ IN ENGLAND

REUTERS
NOTTINGHAM

Joe Root scored his fastest Test century while Ollie Pope struck a superb 145, as England launched a stirring fightback to reach 473 for five at the close of play on the third day of the second Test against New Zealand on Sunday.

Batting beauty

Resuming on 90 for one in the morning after the touring side had posted a massive first-innings total of 553, England excelled on a good batting wicket at a sunny Trent Bridge to trail by 80 when stumps were drawn.

Root was unbeaten on 163 with Ben Foakes not out on 24 after being handed a lifeline through a dropped catch. Pope, also put down early on in his innings on Saturday, looked in sublime form for most of the day as he hit his second Test ton.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand — 1st innings: 553.

England — 1st innings: Alex Lees c Mitchell b Henry 67, Zak Crawley c Blundell b Boult 4, Ollie Pope c Henry b Boult 145, Joe Root (batting) 163, Jonny Bairstow c Blundell b Boult 8, Ben Stokes c Boult b Bracewell 46, Ben Foakes (batting) 24; Extras (b-12, lb-3, w-1): 16 ; Total (for five wkts. in 114 overs): 473.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-147, 3-334, 4-344, 5-405.

New Zealand bowling: Southee 28-1-119-0, Boult 26.3-5-89-3, Henry 27-5-128-1, Jamieson 16.3-3-66-0, Bracewell 14-2-48-1, Mitchell 2-0-8-0.

Starpower

Meeting of legends: Icons of two eras and former India captains Bishan Singh Bedi and Rahul Dravid met up recently at the former's residence in New Delhi. •COURTESY TWITTER

Belgium exacts revenge with thrilling win

The host registers a 3-2 victory against India a day after the shootout heartbreak

FIH PRO LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ANTWERP (BELGIUM)

Alexander Hendrickx struck a brace as Belgium notched up a thrilling 3-2 victory over India in the second match of the two-leg FIH Pro Hockey League on Sunday.

Hendrickx (49th & 59th) produced two goals in the fourth quarter, adding to the 33rd-minute goal from Nicolas de Kerpel, as the Olympic champion fought back from a 0-1 deficit to get the better off India.

Abhishek had put India ahead in the 25th minute.

Trailing 1-3, India almost pulled off a heist when Mandeep Singh swept past the Belgium goalkeeper to reduce the margin.

With just seconds left on the clock, Vivek produced a sensational hit but it went off-target as another thrilling contest came to an end.

The win helped Belgium climb to the second spot while India was third.

Stalled: The Indians tried their best but came up short in the second match against Belgium on Sunday. •FIH

The Indian women suffered a 0-5 loss to Belgium in the second leg.

Barbara Nelen (2), Charlotte Englebert (4), Abi Raye (19), Stephanie Vanden Borre (23) and Ambre Ballenghein (36) scored for the hosts.

Argentina is champion

Argentina was crowned the women's champion after India's 1-2 loss to Belgium on Saturday.

The results:

Men: India 2 (Abhishek 25, Manpreet 60) lost to Belgium 3 (de Kerpel 33, Hendrickx 49 & 59).

Women: India 0 lost to Belgium 5 (Nelen 2, Englebert 4, Raye 19, Borre 23, Ballenghein 36).

Verstappen pulls ahead with fifth victory

Perez takes second spot; Leclerc done in by engine failure

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BAKU

Max Verstappen extended his lead by winning the Azerbaijan Grand Prix on Sunday after Charles Leclerc retired from the lead with an engine failure.

Leclerc started from pole but immediately lost the lead to Sergio Perez, Verstappen's Red Bull teammate, in the first corner. The Ferrari driver regained the lead with a smart strategy call to pit under "virtual safety car" speed restrictions while the two Red Bull cars stayed out.

Leclerc seemed poised to challenge for the win, but the Monaco driver's car started spewing smoke on lap 20 of 51 and he had to pull into the pits. It was his second retirement in three races. "It hurts. We really need to look into that for it to not happen again. I don't really find the right words to describe...," Leclerc said.

Verstappen had passed Perez shortly before Leclerc's failure and the reigning F1 champion cruised to his fifth win of the season.

Pleased as punch: Verstappen soaks in the triumphant moment. •GETTY IMAGES

THE RESULTS

1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:34:05.941; 2. Perez (Red Bull) 20.823; 3. George Russell (Mercedes) 45.995; 4. Hamilton (Mercedes) 1:11.679; 5. Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri) 1:17.299; 6. Vettel (Aston Martin); 1:24.099; 7. Alonso (Alpine) 1:28.596; 8. Ricciardo (McLaren) 1:32.207; 9. Norris (McLaren) 1:32.556; 10. Ocon (Alpine) 1:48.184; +1 lap: Bottas (Alfa Romeo); Albon (Williams); 13. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); 14. Schumacher (Haas); 15. Latifi (Williams); 16. Stroll (Aston Martin); **DNF:** Magnussen (Haas); Guanyu (Alfa Romeo); Leclerc (Ferrari); Sainz (Ferrari).

Standings (top-5): Drivers: 1. Verstappen 150; 2. Perez 129; 3. Leclerc 116; 4. Russell 99; 5. Sainz 83.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 279; 2. Ferrari 199; 3. Mercedes 161; 4. McLaren 65; 5. Alpine 47.

IN BRIEF

Shadab powers Pakistan to 269 in final ODI

MULTAN

Shadab Khan smashed a career-best 86 to lift Pakistan to 269 for nine after West Indies' Nicholas Pooran grabbed four wickets in the third and final ODI on Sunday. Pooran turned his arm over for only the second time in his 43-match ODI career to take four for 48.

The scores: Pakistan 269/9 in 50 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 62, Shadab Khan 86, Nicholas Pooran 4/48) vs West Indies. AFP

Afghanistan wins series

HARARE

Najibullah Zadran and Mohammad Nabi starred in Afghanistan's 21-run win over Zimbabwe in the second T20I on Sunday.

The scores: Afghanistan 170/5 in 20 overs (Najibullah Zadran 57, Mohammad Nabi 43 n.o.) bt Zimbabwe 149/7 in 20 overs (Innocent Kaia 54, Tadiwanashe Marumani 30, Sikandar Raza 41). AFP

Aishwarya causes a flutter with a giant leap

ATHLETICS

K. KEERTHIVASAN
CHENNAI

B. Aishwarya surprised the women's long jump qualifying field with a giant leap of 6.73m, a new meet record and well clear of the Commonwealth Games mark of 6.50m, at the 61st SNJ National inter-State athletics meet on Sunday.

The 24-year-old Aishwarya's effort was the second best by an Indian woman after Anju Bobby George's 6.83m at the 2004 Athens Olympics. The old meet record was held by Mayookha Johny (6.03m, Bengaluru, 2018).

In women's 100m hurdles, C. Kanimozhi was expected to trail the in-form Jyothi Yarraji, but sprinted ahead of the National record-holder to script a remarkable win. The TN girl won in 13.62s while the AP girl tripped over the final hurdle before finishing seventh.

Shock and awe: Kanimozhi races to the finish line even as Jyothi stumbles. •VELANKANNI RAJ

The results: Men: 110m: 1. Siddhanth Thingalaya (Kar) 13.93s, 2. J. Surendhar (TN) 14.18, 3. Tarundeep Singh Bhatia (Pun) 14.21; **3000m steeplechase:** 1. Balakishan (Har) 8:42.34, 2. Rohit Verma (Har) 8:46.43, 3. Rakesh Kumar Swami (Raj) 8:46.64; **High jump:** 1. Sarvesh Kushare (Mah) 2.24m, 2. Jesse Sandesh (Kar) 2.21, 3. Bharathi Viswanathan (TN) 2.18; **Shot put:** 1. Tajinder Pal Singh Toor (Pun) 20.34m, 2. Karanveer Singh (Pun) 19.07, 3. Akshay (Raj) 18.31; **4x100m relay:** Tamil Nadu (Tamil Arasu, A. Vignesh, K. Ellakyiadasan, B. Sivakumar) 39.88s (NMR) (OMR: TN, 40.22, Guwahati, 2018), 2. Punjab (Narinder Singh, Lovepreet Singh, Bikrant Singh, Harit Singh) 40.46, 3. Maharashtra (A. Annappa Shetty, Rahul Ramesh Kadam, K. Pandurang Bhosale, Jay Shah) 40.88.

Women:

100mH: 1. C. Kanimozhi (TN) 13.62s, 2. Moumita Mondal (WB) 13.86, 3. P.M. Thabitha (TN) 14.09; **3000m steeplechase:** 1. Parul Choudhary (UP) 9:42.16s, 2. Sudha Singh (UP) 10:05.72, 3. Komal Chandraka Jagadale (Mah) 10:07.57; **Javelin:** 1. Annu Rani (UP) 60.97s, 2. Shilpa Rani (Har) 59.01, 3. Sanjana Choudhary (Raj) 50.14.

Peru starts favourite

Australia has knowledge of conditions

AASHIN PRASAD
AL RAYYAN (QATAR)

Australia takes on Peru in a high-stakes inter-confederation playoff final clash at the Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium here on Monday. Both Peru and Australia are taking the playoff route for a second World Cup qualification campaign, but this time only one can go through.

It will just be the second meeting between the two sides – Peru beat Australia 2-0 in the group stage of the 2018 World Cup.

Peru has a well-settled unit under Ricardo Gareca and will head into the contest favourites to make it a second successive finals appearance, while a transitional Australian side risks not making the World Cup for the first time since the 2006 edition. The Socceroos will be banking on the advantage of having played in Qatar in recent times; three World Cup qualifiers since 2021 and have acclimatised to the conditions for well over two weeks. Peru, meanwhile, will be playing in Qatar for the first time.

Peru's coach Gareca. •AFP

(The writer is in Qatar at the invitation of the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy)

LIVE TELECAST

KIYG 2022: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
England vs New Zealand: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
UEFA Nations League: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m.; Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF

Five in a row for Toyota at Le Mans 24 Hour Race

LE MANS (FRANCE)

Sebastien Buemi, Ryo Hirakawa and Brendon Hartley ensured Japanese manufacturer Toyota notched up a fifth successive victory in the Le Mans 24 Hour Race on Sunday. The winning drivers completed 380 laps in the classic endurance race. It represented a fourth win for Swiss driver Buemi, a third for New Zealander Hartley and a maiden win for rookie Hirakawa of Japan. AFP

Schwartzel wins LIV series opener

ST. ALBANS (UK)

Charl Schwartzel won the inaugural event in the Saudi-funded rebel LIV Golf series on Saturday as Patrick Reed became the latest big-name player to sign up. South Africa's Schwartzel carded a final round 72 at the Centurion Club outside London to finish seven under par and a shot clear of compatriot Hennie du Plessis. AFP

Two silver medals for Indian lifters

NEW DELHI

India's Akansha Kishor Vyavhare won the silver medal in 40kg category while Vijay Prajapati finished second in 49kg in 2022 IWF Youth World Weightlifting Championships for men and women in Leon, Mexico.
The two silver medals were won on Saturday, the opening day of the event.
Akansha lifted a total of 127kg (59kg + 68kg), while Vijay managed to lift 175kg (78kg + 97kg). PTI

Axelsen and Chen Yufei triumph

JAKARTA

Viktor Axelsen clinched the men's singles title at the Indonesia Masters on Sunday, beating Taiwan's Chou Tien-chen 21-10, 21-12 in straight sets. In the women's singles, China's Chen Yufei overcame Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon 21-16, 18-21, 21-15 to win the title. AFP

Jeevan-Balaji duo takes title

BRATISLAVA

Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan beat Vladyslav Manafov and Oleg Prihodko of Ukraine 7-6(6), 6-4 in the doubles final of the €67,960 Challenger tennis tournament here.

Chhetri backs India against Hong Kong

Two wins in front of home crowd have the hosts buzzing

Grand 17: Chhetri capped his milestone year in active duty with a goal against Afghanistan on Saturday. • FILE PHOTO

ASIAN CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOLKATA

With its tails up after two successive wins in front of a strong home crowd, India captain Sunil Chhetri has backed his team to beat Honk Kong in the last qualifying game and secure a berth in next year's AFC Asian Cup.

India prevailed over Afghanistan 2-1 in a thrilling match on Saturday evening. The day coincided with talismanic skipper Chhetri completing 17 years in international football.

"It feels great to celebrate my 17th year in international football in this fashion. I felt that maybe we will be splitting the points after Afghanistan equalised. But the boys did what they did.

"But at the same time, such milestones don't mean much to me. I am honoured and privileged to wear the national team jersey for so long," Chhetri said.

Chhetri laughed when reminded about him sprinting like Usain Bolt to celebrate Abdul Sahal Samad's decisive strike in the injury time.

"The GPS will say that that was my fastest sprint of the night. We will rest, recover, and have a look at the videos. Hong Kong are a good side, but we are at home, and will be backing ourselves. All of the fans will be there too."

The win helped India consolidate its position in the group as it seeks to make a second straight appearance in the Asian Cup and fifth overall, having been knocked out in the group stage in the last edition in 2019.

Head Coach Igor Stimac stated, "We were Blue Tigers in the match against Afghanistan, and that's what they need to be on the pitch. That's our intent, keeping the pride intact."

Sahal ecstatic

Abdul Sahal, who scored the winner late in the second-half, sounded ecstatic.

"The victory was earned in front of the fans, and hence, it tastes sweeter. I had to back myself, and placed it beyond the goalkeeper. And even before I could realise, the entire team was there to celebrate," he said.

Central defender Sandesh Jhingan also highlighted the character in the squad.

Riddi and Aditi Swami bag archery gold

KIYG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PANCHKULA

Haryana's Riddhi and Rajasthan's Kapish Singh came from behind to clinch the girls' and boys' recurve archery gold while Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh shared the spoils in compound archery on the penultimate day of the Khelo India Youth Games here on Sunday.

With both, the hosts and the defending champions winning one title each, Maharashtra held on to their solitary gold lead, with a total of 38 gold, 35 silver and 29 gold while Haryana have 37 gold, 34 silver and 39 bronze.

Tamil Nadu girls clinched the football gold with a 2-0 win over Jharkhand, with Shanmuga Priya and Shanmugapriya scoring a goal each.

The two recurve summit clashes were contested between Statemates. Haryana's Riddhi fought back from 2-4 down to beat Tamanna 6-4. In the boys' final, Singh lost the opening set but stormed back in style to beat Ajay Nagarwal 7-3.

Maharashtra had a chance to extend its lead at the top with its compound archers reaching the final in both the girls' and boys' category.

Aditi Swami gave it the perfect start with a convincing 144-137 win over Punjab's Avneet Kaur.

However, Parth Korde went down to Andhra Pradesh's Kunderu Venkatadri 144-143, handing Maharashtra just one gold.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Roy enters semifinals

Top seed Pruthvi K.Roy eased into the men's singles last four with a 21-17, 21-18 victory over B.S. Vaibhav Srinath in the Karnataka State-ranking badminton tournament on Sunday.
The results (quarterfinals):
Men: Pruthvi K.Roy bt B.S. Vaibhav Srinath 21-17, 21-18; S. Bhargav bt Srikar Rajesh 22-20, 21-15; Saneeth S.Dayanand bt Nicholas Nathan Raj 21-12, 19-21, 21-12; M. Rohith bt Ayush R.Shetty 8-21, 27-25, 21-19.
Women: Rashmi Ganesh bt Ayushi Bhat 16-21, 21-13, 21-17. Drithi Yatheesh bt Prerana N.Shet 21-13, 21-10; Janani Ananthakumar bt Gloria V.Athavale 21-9, 21-11; Rujula Ramu bt T. Triguna Soumyamrutha 22-20, 19-21, 21-11.

Hat-trick for Cyril Jones

Cyril Jones scored a hat-trick as DYES FC beat Md. Sporting FC 3-1 in the BDFA B-division league, here on Sunday.
The results:
Sree Gajanana FC 1 (Gobinath 35) bt Tilak Memorial FC 0.
Goans FC 4 (Ashok Kumar Chetry 4, Robin Chettry 35, 37, Pradeum Subba 58) bt Bangalore Mars FC 1 (Sunil 7).
Vehicles FC 2 (Sathish 15, 30) bt Sun Rise FC 1 (Sherwin D'Souza 59).
DYES FC 3 (Cyril Jones 20, 41, 70+1) bt Md. Sporting FC 1 (K. Pugalendhi 6).

NAC and BAC crowned champions

Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre (NAC) and Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre (BAC) emerged the boys' and girls' water polo champions respectively at the NRJ State junior water polo championship, held here at the BAC pools recently.
While NAC defeated BAC in the boys' section, BAC beat NAC in the girls' division.

Other results: Diving (winners all):
Boys: Group I: 1m: Mayuresh Jadhav (score: 284.10); **3m**: Mayuresh (283.50).
Group II: 1m: Aaryan Moses Vyas (236.55); **3m**: Aaryan (265.75).
High board: Aaryan (236.95).
Group III: 1m: S. Sohan Suri (196.55); **3m**: Sohan (207.45); **High board**: Sohan (169.35).
Girls: Group I: 1m: Shakynah J.Rao (266.65); 3m: Shakynah (265.05).
Group II: 1m: Chaithra S.Prasad (234.10); **3m**: Chaithra (257.15).
High board: Chaithra (213.15).
Group III: 1m: Poorvika Venkatesh (185.05); **3m**: Poorvika (179.05).
High board: Poorvika (158.05).

Cricket fever: Fans thronged ticket counters at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday to book their tickets for the India-South Africa fifth T20I scheduled to be held in Bengaluru on June 19. • K. MURALI KUMAR

England's woes continue with draw

NATIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS

England is bottom of its UEFA Nations League group without a win after drawing 0-0 with Italy in a repeat of the Euro 2020 final on Saturday, while Germany settled for a point in a 1-1 stalemate in Hungary.

England lost to Hungary, then followed that reverse by drawing 1-1 in Germany and another draw at Molineux leaves it bottom of League A, Group 3 with just two points.

The Netherlands is top of League A, Group 4 after coming from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Poland in Rotterdam, but it could have claimed a third win in as many games had Memphis Depay not squandered a late penalty.

Meanwhile Brennan Johnson came off the bench to score a late leveller as Wales drew 1-1 with Belgium in Cardiff.

Off the mark: Nagy, No. 18, celebrates after scoring for Hungary. • AFP

The results: Group A3: England 0 drew with Italy 0; Hungary 1 (Z. Nagy 6) drew with Germany 1 (Hofmann 9).
Group A4: The Netherlands 2 (Klaassen 51, Dumfries 54) drew with Poland 2 (Cash 18, Zielinski 49); Wales 1 (Johnson 86) drew with Belgium 1 (Tielemans 51).
Group B1: Ukraine 3 (Malinovskyi 61, Karavaev 77, Mykolenko 84) bt Armenia 0; Republic of Ireland 3 (Browne 20, Parrott 28, Obafemi 51) bt Scotland 0.
Group B3: Montenegro 1 (Marusic 77) drew with Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Menalo 62); Romania 1 (Bancu 30) bt Finland 0.
Group C1: Faroe Islands 2 (V. Davidsen 20-pen, Andreasen 45) bt Lithuania 1 (Cernych 6); Luxembourg 0 lost to Turkey 2 (Calhanoglu 37-pen, Dursun 76).

Forest Flame claims main event

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi-trained Forest Flame (Sandesh up) won the Krishnaraja Wadiyar Cup, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 12). The winner is owned by Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole & Mrs. Deina Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep. by Mr. D.R. Thacker and Mr. Chaduranga Kantharaj Urs. Jockey Akshay Kumar won three races for the day.

THE RESULTS:

1. ICH DIEN PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: DIVINE BLESSINGS (S. John) 1, The Adviser (J.H. Arul) 2, Sling Shot (Vinod S) 3 and Ansaldo (Hindu S) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 1. 1m 14.79s. ₹15 (w), 12, 14 and 56 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 91, FP: 39, Q: 32, Trinella: 500 and 436, Exacta: 2,173 and 466. Favourite: Divine Blessings.
Owner: Mr. Dr. Suresh Chintamaneni. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

2. KRANJI PLATE (1,800m), rated 00 to 25: SHUBANKAR (Akshay K) 1, Mrs Thatcher (Sandesh) 2, Super Ruffian (Nikhil N) 3 and Russian Romance (C.S. Jodha) 4. 1-1/2, 1-1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m 54.09s. ₹38 (w), 17 and 27 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 40, FP: 157, Q: 67, Trinella: 284 and 138, Exacta: 444 and 207. Favourite: Super Ruffian.
Owner: Mr. Laksh Bhatia. Trainer: Warren Singh.

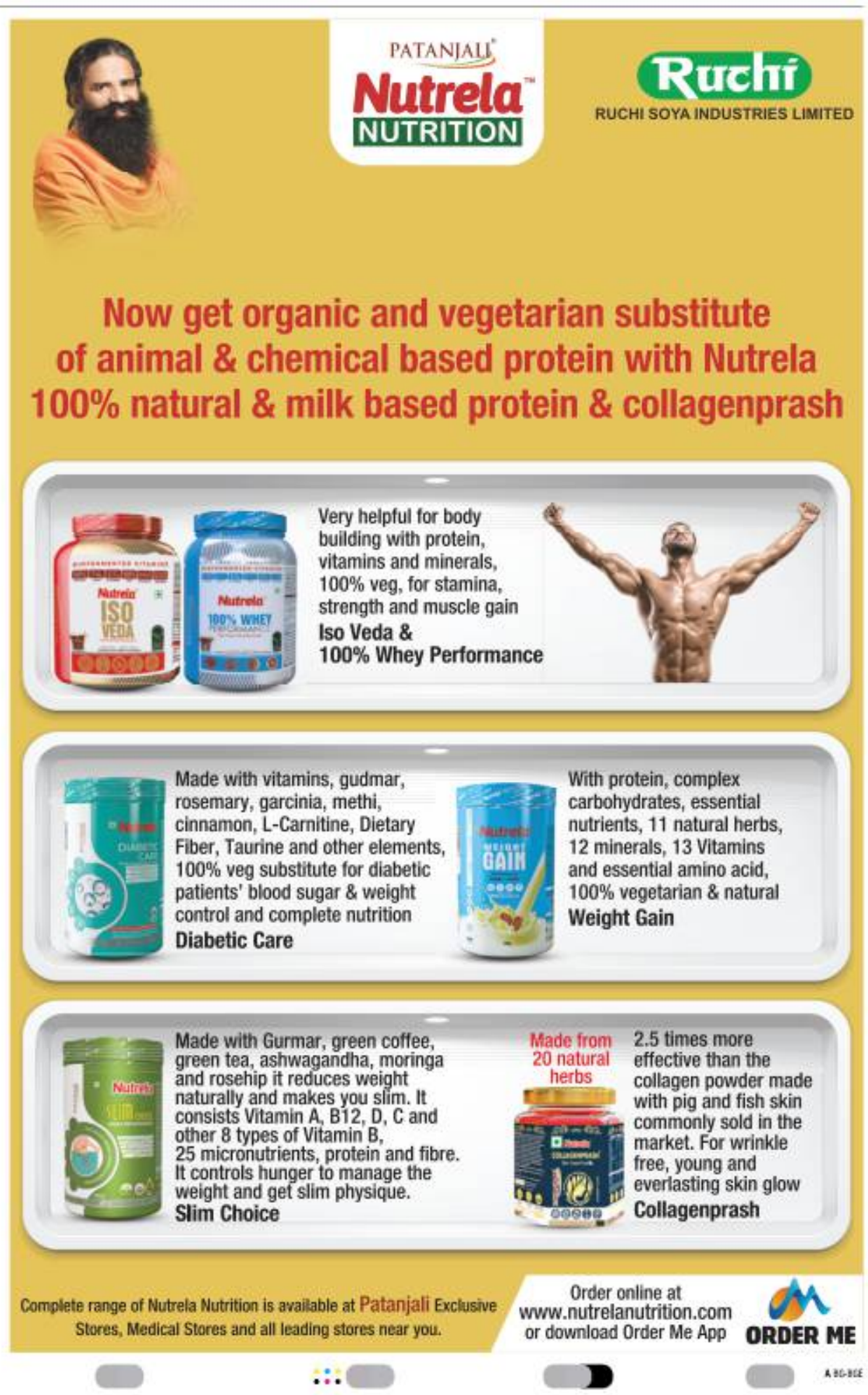
3. MAYOR'S CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85: ALL ATTRACTIVE (Akshay K) 1, Enid Blyton (A. Prakash) 2, Presidential (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Whizzo (Ashhad A) 4. 6-1/4, 2-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m 24.45s. ₹20 (w), 12, 36 and 13 (p), SHP: 144, THP: 54, FP: 551, Q: 369, Trinella: 660 and 186, Exacta: 10,820 and 9,275. Favourite: All Attractive.
Owner: M/s. Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

4. KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over: FOREST FLAME (Sandesh) 1, Giant Star (C.S. Jodha) 2, A Star Is Born (Suraj) 3 and Miracle (P.S. Chouhan) 4. 6-1/2, 1/2 and 1-3/4. 1m 36.03s. ₹25 (w), 15 and 52 (p), SHP: 73, THP: 31, FP: 274, Q: 188, Trinella: 501 and 113, Exacta: 947 and 380. Favourite: Forest Flame.
Owners: Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla, Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole & Mrs. Deina Z. Poonawalla, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep. by Mr. D.R. Thacker and Mr. Chaduranga Kantharaj Urs. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

5. PRINCE KHARTOUM PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): ARTEMIS IGNACIA (Sandesh) 1, Royal Glory (Trevor) 2, Chinky Pinky (Richard Oliver) 3 and Domingo (Dashrath) 4. 1-3/4, 5-3/4 and lnk. 1m 13.24s. ₹124 (w), 31, 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 51, FP: 223, Q: 164, Trinella: 767 and 333, Exacta: 6,448 and 4,342. Favourite: Royal Glory. Owners: Mr. Balasubramanya R & Mr. Lohith Anand. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

6. ROYAL COMMAND PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: SCRIBBLING HOPPER (Akshay K) 1, Measure Of Time (T.S. Jodha) 2, Tyto Alba (Rajesh K) 3 and Another Rainbow (Raghuveer S) 4. 3-3/4, 3/4 and 3/4. 1m 38.39s. ₹20 (w), 11, 21 and 18 (p), SHP: 49, THP: 47, FP: 107, Q: 49, Trinella: 462 and 262, Exacta: 1,448 and 543. Favourite: Scribbling Hopper. Owners: Mrs. Gaja Manoj & Mr. K. Manoj Kumar. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

7. ICH DIEN PLATE (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: MILLBROOK (S. John) 1, Tenali (Suraj) 2, Clever Hans (Akshay K) 3 and Impeccable (Nikhil N) 4. 3/4, Shd and 3-3/4. 1m 14.05s. ₹36 (w), 15, 13 and 15 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 51, FP: 128, Q: 47, Trinella: 183 and 97, Exacta: 1,782 and 1,019. Favourite: Clever Hans.
Owners: Rajagiri Rubber & Produce Co. Ltd. rep. by Mr. & Mrs. Dilip Thomas. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.
Jackpot: ₹4,769 (19 tkts).
Runner-up: 681 (57 tkts).
Treble (i): 357 (23 tkts); (ii): 2,056 (eight tkts).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Diabetic Care
With protein, complex carbohydrates, essential nutrients, 11 natural herbs, 12 minerals, 13 Vitamins and essential amino acid, 100% vegetarian & natural
Weight Gain
Made with Gurmar, green coffee, green tea, ashwagandha, moringa and rosehip it reduces weight naturally and makes you slim. It consists Vitamin A, B12, D, C and other 8 types of Vitamin B, 25 micronutrients, protein and fibre. It controls hunger to manage the weight and get slim physique.
Slim Choice
Made from 20 natural herbs
2.5 times more effective than the collagen powder made with pig and fish skin commonly sold in the market. For wrinkle free, young and everlasting skin glow
Collagenprash
Complete range of Nutrela Nutrition is available at Patanjali Exclusive Stores, Medical Stores and all leading stores near you.
Order online at www.nutrelanutrition.com or download Order Me App
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Mithun and Prakash fetch maximum price

BADMINTON

SPORTS REPORTER

BENGALURU

- The auction saw a total of 64 players picked out of a possible 238, with 14-year-old Rujula Ramu fetching ₹1.8 lakh
- The GPBL will be held from July 1 to 10, at the Karnataka Badminton Association

Three out of the eight icon players were picked at their maximum price of ₹3.5 lakh each in the Grand Prix Badminton League auction, which was held here on Sunday.

Picked by Falcons

The players, Mithun Manjunath and Prakash Raj, were picked up by the Malnad Falcons and the KGF Wolves respectively, while Sai Prateek was picked by the Mandya Bulls through a draw of lots, after a four-way bidding tie between the teams.

The GPBL will be held from July 1 to 10, at the Karnataka Badminton Association here.

Saneeth Dayanand (Kodagu Tigers, ₹2.6 lakh), Daniel Farid (Bandipur Tuskers, ₹3.1 lakh), Raghu Mariswamy (Mangaluru Sharks, ₹3.3 lakh), Tanya Hemanth (Mysore Panthers, ₹3.2 lakh), and Janani Ananthkumar (Bengaluru Lions, ₹2.5 lakh) were among the other icon players in the auction pool.

The auction saw a total of 64 players picked out of a possible 238, with 14-year-old Rujula Ramu fetching ₹1.8 lakh.

Thirteen-year-old Jade Anil, signed by Bandipur Tuskers for ₹30,000, was the youngest player to be picked.

Grand double for Rajini

MOTORSPORTS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

COIMBATORE

Rajini. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chennai's Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power 1) underlined his class yet again completing a sweet double in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open class of the Rolon round MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Sunday.

His bike was not up to date last year but, this time around, he worked hard on it and, it fetched him the desired results.

Important results (provisional): National Championship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-2, 14 laps): 1. Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power 1) 17:24.801s, 2. K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing), 3. Vorapong Malahuan (Petronas TVS Racing).
Pro-Stock 165cc Open (Race-2, 14 laps): 1. Mathana Kumar (Pacer Yamaha) 18:22.071, 2. Prabhu Arunagiri (Pacer Yamaha), 3. Mithun Kumar (Pacer Yamaha).
Novice (Stock 165cc, Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Sarvesh Balappa (Axor Sparks Racing) 14:33.419, 2. V. Chiranth (Rookies Racing), 3. Aldrin Babu (RACR Castrol Power 1).
Girls (Stock 165cc, 8 laps): 1. Ann Jennifer (Alpha Racing) 11:53.085, 2. Aditi Krishnan (Winverve Apex Racing Academy), 3. Jagruti Penkar (Axor Sparks Racing).
Petronas TVS One-Make Championship – Apache RR310 Open: Race-1, 10 laps: 1. Rahil Pillarisetty 13:04.172, 2. P. Ananthraj, 3. Navaneeth Kumar. **Race-2, 8 laps:** 1. N. Jagadeesh (Bengaluru) 10:29.569, 2. Rahil, 3. I Venkatesan.